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TODAY

Missing Rehovot boy found murdered

RAINE MARCUS

THE body of teenager Amit Molcho, 16, who disappeared 10 days ago, was found in an orange grove east of Rehovot, not far from his home, late yesterday afternoon, police said. Molcho's family identified the body.

A police pathologist said he had been stabbed and beaten to death. Sexual motives were ruled out and police also said the chances the murder was committed for nationalistic motives were also slim.

Molcho's friend, Maxim Agronov, 18, who disappeared with him, is still missing.

The body was found by a police search party at the Meltzer orange grove, not far from the Weizmann Institute. A police pathologist determined that Molcho had been murdered shortly after he disappeared from home.

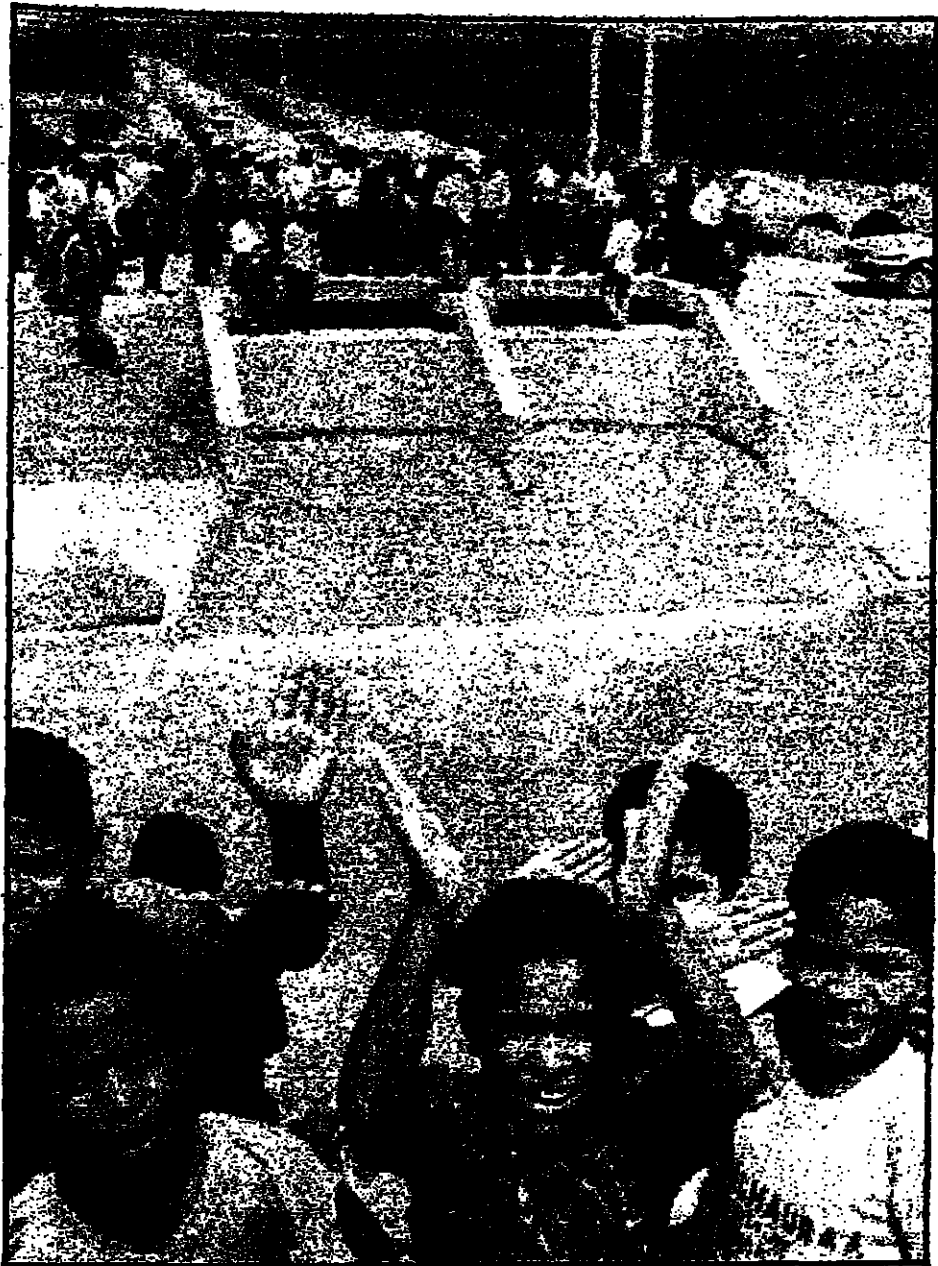
Earlier yesterday, central district police decided to form a special squad to hunt for Molcho and Agronov, who said they were going to a bonfire the day they disappeared. At first, the families believed they had run away because of family squabbles, but began to fear the worst after they failed to hear from them.

Molcho's mother appealed to her son on Army Radio yesterday morning to let her know if he was alive and well.

"Amit is responsible and has never spent a night away from home," she said.

Before the discovery of the body, the families also blasted police for failing to mount searches for the missing teenagers, concentrating on tips and intelligence information instead. They urged police to hunt the fields surrounding Rehovot.

The families had also posted photos around the city urging the public to come forward if they had information on their missing sons.



Jordanian children cheer as water pumped from Lake Kinneret flows into Jordan at Adasia via a 5-km. water carrier. The channel will carry up to 20 million cubic meters of water in the next four months. It is part of 215 million cu.m. Israel pledged to give to Jordan annually under the terms of the peace treaty. The \$5 million pipeline was built with funding from the Canadian government. (Reuters)

Beilin seeking economic deal for peace with Syria

DAVID MAKOVSKY

DEPUTY Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin has been quietly sounding out several European countries and Japan about offering economic assistance to Syria after it reaches a peace accord with Israel, a senior Foreign Ministry official told *The Jerusalem Post*.

Among the possibilities being raised is the rescheduling of "a few billion dollars in loans" owed by Syria, the official said.

Beilin has talked to officials from Germany, Britain, France, Spain, Sweden, Austria, and Japan. None of the countries has made any commitments, nor has Beilin asked for any specific amounts of aid.

Beilin has instructed Israel's ambassadors in every European country to investigate the scope of Syrian debt to their host countries, and to inquire about special grants and loans for which Damascus could be eligible.

"We are talking about utilizing money that could be in the pipeline, both bilaterally or multilaterally. We are not asking to set aside new money," a senior Israeli official said.

An example of aid sought by the Foreign Ministry on Syria's behalf is an unspecified budgetary slice of a soon-to-be-announced plan by the European Union (EU) to provide grants of an expected \$6.5 billion to Mediterranean countries, plus a similar sum in loans to these countries over the next five years.

A senior European diplomat confirmed that this program is to be announced next week at an EU Council of Ministers meeting in Cannes, France.

"We have found the Europeans enthusiastic about the prospect of putting together a package, because it gives

them a role without asking them for new money. This way they could use their leverage," the senior Foreign Ministry official said.

Israel would prefer the EU put together an economic package for Syria to be announced at its November business conference in Barcelona, with the understanding that the package is contingent on a peace deal being reached.

It remains unclear how Europeans and Japanese officials will react. A Japanese official said, "We have been asked by an Israeli official to explore such assistance to Syria. We have not yet given our response."

A senior European diplomat said any European assistance plan must be seen in proportion. "Let us remember that what will decide these US-brokered negotiations between Israel and Syria will be what happens with the Golan," the diplomat said. "There can be other inducements apart from the Golan, and Europeans will try to exercise influence where possible, but it will not be decisive."

When asked for a reaction to the Foreign Ministry effort, Aliza Goren, spokeswoman for Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, said, "If something is being done by the Foreign Ministry on this question, it is not occurring with the authorization of the prime minister."

Rabin said last week that all Arab countries that make peace with Israel, including Syria, should be entitled to foreign assistance.

According to the senior Foreign Ministry official, the effort to enlist European help began after officials in Jerusalem were upset earlier this year when the EU unilaterally lifted an arms embargo and Britain resumed flights to

Damascus after a nine-year break, without receiving any reciprocal concessions from Syria.

The approach to the Europeans and Japanese also received impetus from the trouble Jordan is having getting \$275 million in debt relief from a budget-cutting US Congress.

Syria, which is still on the State Department's Terrorism List, would like to have a much harder time, a senior Clinton administration official confirmed. Beilin has briefed the US on his efforts, a senior Foreign Ministry official said.

According to a source close to the Egyptian leadership, Syrian President Hafez Assad has repeatedly complained to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak that Secretary of State Warren Christopher has not outlined a peace package for Syria in the event of a peace deal with Israel.

Sources claim that when Assad raised this issue with Christopher during their March meeting, Christopher said this could only be discussed after a peace accord with Israel has been reached.

However, US officials deny this. The issue of what benefits might accrue to Syria from the US for making peace with Israel has not come up in Washington-Damascus talks, a senior Clinton administration official said yesterday.

While Syria seeks "removal of statutory restrictions" emanating from Damascus's presence on the State Department's lists of countries supporting drug dealing and terrorism, "they've never intimidated anything like" receiving financial benefits, the official said.

In any case, the administration has no intention of rewarding Syria by removing it from the lists without the Syrians meriting this change in status, he stated.

Hillel Kuttler contributed to this report.

Ben-Porat okays party funding practices

EVELYN GORDON

ADHERENCE to party funding laws improved last year, with only two parties found in violation of them, and those for fairly trivial offenses, State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat said yesterday.

A third party, the Labor Party, was given a clear report only after "hesitations," Ben-Porat said, since there was one case where its explanation of a seeming violation seemed fishy. The case involved a convention held by the party in a wedding hall, which should normally have cost about NIS 7,000, the comptroller said.

However, Labor paid only NIS 300 for both the rental and refreshments, despite having invited a large number of people.

The party submitted an affidavit saying the format of the conference had been changed: In the end, only 15-20 people came, and they were given very modest refreshments.

"I wasn't convinced that the facts were as claimed," Ben-Porat wrote in her report. "But after not a few hesitations, I decided that giving a negative report to the Labor Party would be murderous, harsh and grave," she said at a press conference yesterday.

"But if it becomes clear that the affidavit given by the party is

not true, it will be possible to impose sanctions on the party," she added.

The two parties found in violation were Hadash and the National Religious Party.

Hadash was found guilty of accepting a NIS 1,000 contribution from one person - the limit for individual donations is NIS 500 - and of using property owned by other individuals without payment, though such usage should have cost about NIS 3,000. Only earlier this month did Hadash pay the owners of the property NIS 6,000 for 1994 and 1995.

For these violations, the party could have been deprived of NIS 597,960 worth of party funding, and required to pay the Treasury up to NIS 6,000 out of its bank account. However, Ben-Porat decided to deprive the party of only NIS 25,000 worth of funding, and to make it pay the Treasury NIS 3,000.

In practice, however, the NIS 3,000 will also be deducted from the party's future funding, because its bank account was empty, Ben-Porat said.

The NRP was found guilty of spending NIS 645,832 more than was permissible last year.

Ben-Porat noted that the party

would not have been in violation had it not been for an amendment to the party funding law passed in March 1994, which, for the first time, made money spent to finance loans count towards the party's expenditure ceiling. The NRP spent NIS 892,853 on loan financing last year.

Nevertheless, she said, the law stipulates a mandatory sanction in cases of overspending, of one-third of the excess, so she had no choice but to fine the NRP NIS 215,277.

Shas, for the first time in a number of years, was given a clean report, as were the other 10 Knesset factions.

"Overall, the party funding situation was better [last year] compared to previous years," she said.

"The defects that were uncovered were not moral blemishes but foul-ups caused by the enactment of [a new] party funding law in 1994," she said.

"Of course, I am talking only of what we found on the ground," she added. "What the eyes don't see, they don't see. But we try to ensure that they don't hide anything from us."

All the parties together received NIS 65.3 million in party

funding last year, and they spent NIS 75.7m.

Ben-Porat said there was one violation common to almost all parties which became illegal only with the March 1994 amendment, and which she therefore decided to treat leniently this year: Branch offices are no longer allowed to receive discounts or exemptions on municipal rates from the local authorities. Under the new law, this is punishable by up to a year in prison.

"But if this phenomenon repeats itself next year, I will treat any discount or exemption as a contribution from an organization, which is forbidden by law - with all the attendant consequences," she wrote.

Ben-Porat said she was also not strict about another section of the law which was new this year - the clause forbidding parties to use money received from the Histadrut for party activity not at the Histadrut level.

However, she did demand affidavits saying their balance sheets reflected their Histadrut activity as well.

"But it is not inconceivable that developments in [the police] investigation [into Histadrut funding of political parties] might require me to rethink this matter," she added.

'Syria must implement extensive demilitarization'

ALON PINKAS

CHIEF of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak will present his Syrian counterpart with detailed maps of proposed demilitarized zones extending east of the Golan Heights, when the two meet in Washington next Tuesday.

A senior diplomatic source confirmed to *The Jerusalem Post* last night that extensive demilitarization will be an Israeli demand, and not a negotiable proposal.

The CGS will travel to Washington with Maj.-Gen. Danny Yatom, the prime minister's military secretary. He is scheduled to meet the Syrian chief of staff, Gen. Hikmet Shihabi, on Tuesday and Wednesday.

According to the Israeli plan, the entire Golan Heights will be demilitarized. The Israeli map also calls for a demilitarized strip

east of the Golan, along the Kuneitra-Khan Arnabeh-Damascus road. The width of this strip has not yet been determined.

In addition, Israel will demand a Syrian force reduction and dilution in the area stretching between Kuneitra and Katana, a town south of Damascus where a large portion of the Syrian forces are currently concentrated. Israel might agree, according to a senior army officer, to a symmetrical force dilution on the Golan during the first years of the agreement.

The force-dilution area will extend to the Leja, an array of low hills on Damascus's eastern and southern outskirts.

Furthermore, Israel will ask Syria to construct a large unbreachable barrier that would prevent tank movement towards the Golan.

Christopher threatens to ask Clinton to veto moving embassy to Jerusalem

HILLEL KUTTLE
WASHINGTON

SECRETARY of State Warren Christopher threatened yesterday to recommend to President Bill Clinton that he veto a bill mandating that the US move its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

In a letter sent yesterday to Senate majority leader Robert Dole, Christopher said that with the approach of the July 1 target date for a Palestinian-Israeli agreement on elections and redeployment, as well as next week's Israeli-Syrian military talks, "safeguarding the negotiations is more vital than ever. This process is now entering an especially delicate period."

"Few actions would be more explosive and harmful to these efforts than for the US, as the key sponsor of this process, to be pushing the Jerusalem issue forward... The last thing we should want is for the US at this very moment to put the focus back on Jerusalem," Christopher wrote. Fifty-four senators support the bill, but no vote has been set. Christopher cautioned Dole, who presented the legislation to the Senate on May 9, that the US "must not take steps that make it more difficult to achieve" a "real peace" in the region.

Shahak: Israel won't tolerate Katyushas, Hizbullah shelling of south Lebanese villages

EVELYN GORDON

ISRAEL cannot accept continued shelling of villages in south Lebanon begun recently by Hizbullah and the firing of Katyushas on northern Israel, Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak warned yesterday.

Hizbullah is fully aware of Israel's position, but has been shelling the villages anyway, Lipkin-Shahak told Israel Radio after yesterday's meeting of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

Earlier, Industry and Trade Minister Micha Harish, responding to 10 motions to the agenda regarding the recent Katyusha attacks, said there are differences within the government over how much Israel should give up in a peace agreement with Syria.

"Everyone [in Israel]... wants to achieve peace agreements, and there are differences of opinion about how to achieve

such agreements," he said. "Even within the government there are differences of opinion regarding what prices should be paid for one thing or the other, and this will certainly be the subject of discussion as the talks with Syria progress."

The motions to the agenda were submitted by both coalition and opposition MKs. Predictably, coalition MKs used the opportunity to express support for the government's actions, while opposition MKs demanded that talks with Syria be stopped until terror from Lebanon also stops.

Harish did not deny that Syrian President Hafez Assad could stop the attacks if he wanted to. The Israel-Syrian agreement reached after Operation Accountability allows Israel to attack Hizbullah forces even if they are taking cover among the civilian population, he said, and for Hizbullah to counterattack by firing Katyushas at the Golan Heights is a clear violation of this agreement.

"Prime Minister and Defense Minister [Yitzhak Rabin] re-

cently sent a message to the Syrians via the US in which he made it clear that we cannot overlook gross violations such as these," he said. "The Americans... also clarified to the Syrians that they need to behave with restraint and refrain from terrorist activity in South Lebanon."

Rabin's statement that quiet in South Lebanon cannot be achieved without a political settlement does not mean that Israel is not fighting the war against the terrorists by every possible military means, he stressed.

However, he said, the public's ability to continue to lead a normal life in the face of Hizbullah attacks is crucial to deterring them. "The message... that it is impossible to subdue the people of Israel is a message no less strong than [that sent] by military victories," he said.

In other news, MK Anat Maor (Meretz) yesterday attacked Rabin for "neglecting his political supporters in the Golan Heights." Maor told Rabin he should try to develop a "political and personal connection" with these people, whose voices, she said, are barely being heard.

IDF to bolster combat forces, support units, cut reserve duty

LIAT COLLINS and ALON PINKAS

CHIEF of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak said the IDF would be putting its future manpower emphasis on combat forces and support units such as communications.

Shahak was speaking before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday, where he presented the main points of the IDF's 1995 manpower plan.

He said there is a problem filling the manpower needs of the combat units while rear guard units have a manpower surplus. He said the IDF has tried to use the non-combat personnel for operational and ongoing security purposes "but a certain risk is generally involved in this."

The CGS said he did not think the period of compulsory military service would be cut in the coming years.

Regarding reserve duty, Shahak said although the number of days had been reduced, battalion commanders and other officers were still doing far more reserve duty days because of briefings, review panels and so on.

In an attempt to alleviate the reserve-duty burden, the IDF

plans to establish several dozen new regular army platoons that will be trained for routine security missions. These soldiers will replace reserve soldiers.

In addition, the army's 1995 plan will introduce changes in the number of days and duration of reserve service:

- A maximum of 24 days for routine security missions.
- Five to 13 days of training days for combat units.
- A ceiling of no more than 39 days of service per year for reservists, 10 less than the maximum provided by the 1994 plan.
- The age for a permanent exemption from service for combat reservists will be 45, and those over 40 will serve no more than 26 days.
- The IDF will train thousands of new immigrants, all over 21 years of age, for combat, driving, paramedical and technical designations.

Also at the meeting, Shahak attacked the universities for not meeting students' needs by allowing them a third sitting for exams if they miss or fail the first or second sitting due to reserve duty.

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Helicopters used to spot illegal roads

CIVIL administration inspectors took to the air yesterday to monitor clandestine road building, as settlement activists – for the second day in a row – unveiled a secretly-built road yesterday linking settlements in the territories.

The dirt road links Karnei Shomron with a road near Emmanuel. This road then runs into the Trans-Samarian Highway to the south, and the Kalkiya-Nablus road to the north.

The wave of clandestine road-building – settlement leaders say some 15 such roads are currently under consideration in Samaria alone – led the civil administration to use a helicopter to see where the building is taking place.

A helicopter landed near bulldozers

working on a road linking Talmon A and B in Samaria. But the workers at the site refused to stop working, because the inspectors did not have the permits needed to stop the work.

A civil administration spokesman said, however, that an order to stop work on the road, which crosses privately owned land, was delivered to the Binyamin Regional Council in the beginning of the week.

The purpose of the new road unveiled near Karnei Shomron, is to give residents of the settlement an alternative route in case the Kalkiya-Nablus road, which the settlement sits on, is closed, explained Nissim Slomiansky, one of the leaders of the

HERB KEINON

Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza.

Slomiansky admitted that permits to build the road were not obtained from the civil administration. He defended this by referring to recent comments made by Environment Minister Yossi Sarid, who said that political, and not legal considerations, would determine whether the government would evacuate the new settlement of Ma'aleh Yisrael near Barkan.

"Those who thumb their nose at the law cannot expect that, when dealing with the security of Jews, we will act differently than they do," Slomiansky said.

Meanwhile, the settlement council pre-

sented Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair with documents it says proves its claim to the 13 abandoned homes at Ma'aleh Yisrael that settlers moved into last week.

David Rotem, the council's legal adviser, said the documents included letters from the Defense Ministry attesting that the land was bought by Jews and is an extension of the existing settlement of Barkan, and a letter from the IDF thanking the owners of the one of the homes for allowing the army to use it as an observation post.

Ben-Yair on Sunday had told the cabinet the movement into the homes was illegal because they had not been originally built with all the proper permits.

Matza calls for Shahal's resignation

LIAT COLLINS

KNESSSET Interior Committee chairman Yehoshua Matza (Likud) called on Police Minister Moshe Shahal to resign yesterday, telling him: "It's best you resign rather than go down in history as the person who was Police Minister when east Jerusalem was taken away from us."

Matza said the Palestinian Authority is purchasing property next to Orient House "in order to establish a Palestinian government complex in Jerusalem."

He also said the education system in the east of the city is entirely in PLO hands, and matriculation exams there appear under the heading of the Palestinian Authority.

Shahal was attending the committee meeting to discuss an incident last week in which its members, on a visit to Orient House, were filmed and photographed by police as if they were part of a political rally or demonstration.

Matza described the affair as "a most serious and shameful incident, one that should not take place in a democratic country."

At the outset of the meeting, Shahal presented Matza with the photos taken by the police. Shahal said the photos had been taken legally, out of concern for the MKs' safety, and that the decision to take them was professional, adding the politicians should not intervene in professional matters.

Shahal said the matter of Jerusalem's unity is above political squabbles and "no one can compete in preserving [it]." He told the committee that police and intelligence forces are active in the city and said three Palestinian Authority bodies in east Jerusalem had been closed: the statistics bureau, the information ministry, and the broadcasting authority. He promised the matter of the PA's religious affairs ministry there would be dealt with.

Salmovitz accuses Segev of fraud, forgery

SARAH HONIG

YI'UD MK Esther Salmovitz lodged a complaint with police yesterday concerning alleged fraud and forgery by party leader Gonen Segev during Yi'ud's recent membership drive.

Meanwhile, the Tel Aviv District Court is considering whether the Yi'ud central committee to be elected by the registered members can convene.

Only some 1,200 people signed up for membership, and investigations within Yi'ud yielded suspicions of fraud two weeks ago. Salmovitz noted that the list of 1,200 members was full of residents of Jezreel Valley Arab villages, their names had been filled in with the same handwriting, and the membership dues had all been paid by a single person.

The issue is significant because Salmovitz and Deputy Housing Minister Alex Goldfarb recently deposed Segev as party leader at a meeting they called of the party secretariat, in which only they and Segev are members. Segev argued in the Tel Aviv District Court that this is illegal, because he is turning Yi'ud into a bona fide party, with a central committee that will convene soon now that the membership drive is over.

Salmovitz and Goldfarb believe Segev is setting up what appear to be party institutions, so as to then declare a "merger" with Labor and win a reserved slot on the next Labor Knesset list as a representative of an outside party aligned with Labor.

Raine Marcus adds:

Deputy investigations chief Cmdr. Avi Levy emphasized that police would not launch an investigation into Salmovitz's allegations unless she produced evidence to prove her claims.

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

The weekly meeting of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place today at 1 p.m. at the YMCA, King David Street.

We deeply mourn the death in New York of our dear friend

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Tsur: Beit Jann roads need paving

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

AGRICULTURE Minister Ya'acov Tsur yesterday said two roads linking Beit Jann with other villages should be paved as soon as possible, in light of the findings of a committee set up to examine the tumult in the Druse village two weeks ago.

Tsur accepted the committee's recommendations, saying in this case "human needs are stronger than the needs to protect nature." The government has neglected the needs of the Druse in the Galilee for many years, he added.

The committee, headed by Aviv Savi, Tsur's senior assistant, recommended to go ahead with the roads, which run through the Mt. Meron Nature Reserve. The committee was set up after the High Court of Justice issued an interim injunction forbidding the village from continuing work on the roads to Hurfeish and Ein el-Assad it began paving illegally in the middle of the night.

"One cannot help thinking that if we were dealing with residents

from the center of the country and the country's rich citizens, the roads would have been approved long ago, just like the many marinas which are damaging the country's beaches and the Trans-Israel highway," said Tsur.

Yossi Leshem, director of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI), said on Israel Radio that the "committee's decision is very grave and is influenced by elections and politics. It cannot be that a minister in Israel will give his support to vandalism, which is against the law."

MIA's mother begins hunger strike

BATSHEVA TSUR

PNINA Feldman, mother of one of the Israeli soldiers missing in action in Lebanon, yesterday began a hunger strike, saying she would continue until Palestinian Authority head Yasser Arafat provided information on the MIAs.

Feldman's son, Zvi, disappeared together with four other IDF soldiers during the battle of Sultan Ya'akoub on June 11, 1982. Feldman announced her hunger strike during a

13th anniversary ceremony for the MIAs at Eilat.

Arafat had promised to reveal further information after delivering half of the ID tag belonging to Zacharia Baumel, one of the MIAs, in December 1993. No such information

has been forthcoming. Feldman said her hunger strike was in response to the announcement by Palestinian prisoners that they will not eat until released. "Let's see whom Prime Minister Rabin will listen to first – the Palestinians or the families of the MIAs," she said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Poll: Levy could weaken Netanyahu

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu would receive 39 percent and 38 percent of the vote, respectively, if elections were held now, a poll conducted by Dr. Mina Tzemah for Channel 1 has found.

In the first round, Rabin would get 37%, with only 27% percent for Netanyahu, due to a loss of votes to David Levy. In a second round contest between Rabin and Netanyahu, however, the two are virtually tied.

The poll also found that the Labor Party would receive 36 mandates, Likud 34, Meretz 8, Tsomet 7, David Levy 5, a party headed by Ahmed Tibi 3-4, the Third Way 3-4, immigrants party 3, and Hadash 3.

Rabin, Peres in surprise tour of areas

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, accompanied by Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, toured the territories by helicopter and ground convoy yesterday.

Israel Radio said the surprise whirlwind tour was to allow Rabin and Peres a close look at sites likely to be affected by the planned IDF redeployment.

After Peres and Rabin flew low over the areas in a three-helicopter formation, Rabin led a convoy of dozens of cars on a tour of the Ramallah area.

Moshav Dovev residents lament finances

"People at Moshav Dovev are starving," Upper Galilee Local Council head Aharon Ma'atuk said yesterday, while participating in a stormy demonstration of moshav members on the Northern Road.

Police and soldiers dispersed the demonstrators, who tried to cross the border into Lebanon.

One local resident said moshav members earn only NIS 800 a month. Moshavim movement leaders vowed to shut down all the northern border moshavim if a solution to their financial problems is not found.

French citizen arrested for murder

A French citizen, Roland Ferné, 43, was arrested yesterday in Tel Aviv on suspicion he committed a murder during a robbery in France a month ago.

He will remain in detention until he is extradited.

Task force meets today in Paris to discuss regional bank

JOSE ROSENFELD

DESPITE the failure of the Group of Seven (G-7) to agree on the establishment of a Middle East development bank earlier this week, Israeli officials are optimistic that progress will be achieved at a regional bank task force meeting in Paris today.

Referring to the recent G-7 meeting, Treasury International Division head Ehud Kaufman said: "Halifax [Nova Scotia] wasn't a setback for the establishment of the Middle East development bank, it just produced no progress."

However, he noted that everyone is committed to make progress in light of the upcoming Amman economic conference in October.

The US, together with the Egyptians, Palestinians, Jordanians, and the Israelis, is pushing for a regional bank, while the Europeans want to first have a regional institution with a capacity to mobilize funds for development of the region.

To prove its point, the Europe-

an Union recently approved a \$300 million loan through the European Investment Bank for an Egyptian-Israeli oil refinery project in Alexandria. According to the Europeans, once a mechanism is established for project identification and feasibility studies, there are large amounts of untapped funds available.

The US, on the other hand, supports establishing a regional bank with limited capital of between \$1.25b. and \$1.5b. which will help ensure the prudent use of the money.

Fatah, Hamas tie in Nablus student elections

LAMIA LAHOUD

FATAH and Hamas won an equal number of seats in the student council elections at An-Najah University in Nablus, which means Hamas will have a major presence on the council for the first time.

Each won 29 seats out of a possible 81 seats. The PFLP got 3 seats. Students in the territories are now voting according to a system of proportional representation, rather than the old, winner-takes-all system, explained Sabri Tomezee, a member

of the Fatah High Committee.

To form the student council, Fatah needs 41 of the 81 seats. Marwan Barghout, Fatah general secretary in the territories, said he is confident that the PFLP would not join forces with Hamas to the exclusion of Fatah.

He said Fatah would now try to form a coalition with Hamas, but would insist that Fatah take the presidency of the council, since Fatah got more votes than Hamas.

Two killed in accidents

TWO men were killed yesterday in separate accidents on the country's roads.

A Lod bicyclist was killed yesterday when he was hit by an unlicensed truck driver on the road leading to Ben-Gurion Airport. Hamed Hajazi, 32, was declared dead on the scene. The truck driver was apparently not keeping a safe distance and ran into Hajazi. He was arrested by police.

Near Kiryat Gat, a 23-year-old Beersheba resident was killed when his car crashed head-on into a truck. Police said the driver was apparently speeding. Rescue teams had to extract the man,

who was trapped in the car. He was declared dead by a doctor on the scene.

Last night a drunken driver whose license had been suspended and was driving at 170 kph on the Tel Aviv-Asdod road was apprehended after hitting cars stopped for a traffic light, injuring several drivers lightly.

In May, there were 1,822 traffic accidents with casualties. Thirty-five accidents resulted in deaths, while 267 accidents involved serious injuries. A total of 43 people were killed and 343 were seriously injured, the Central Bureau of Statistics said yesterday.

Shetreet: Some collaborators want to convert

RELIGIOUS Affairs Minister Shimon Shetreet confirmed yesterday that a small number of Palestinian collaborators have asked to convert to Judaism.

"The numbers are not large," Shetreet told Israel Radio, "but the phenomenon exists." He said there are still more Jews who convert to Islam, than Muslims who convert to Judaism.

Shetreet said the potential converts must prove they are not converting for material gain, but for sincere reasons.

He said one of the reasons collaborators want to convert is to be able to change their identities and be less likely to be tracked down and killed by Hamas terrorists.

There are situations, Shetreet said, where "if someone tied their destiny to ours, and for a period helped us save lives, and we call him a collaborator, then this is someone who has proved [sincerity] through his help to the Jewish people." (TIM)

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Law panel reviews bills prohibiting sex ads

LIAT COLLINS

MKS were talking about sex again yesterday, when two bills relating to ads for sex services were discussed by the Knesset Law Committee.

The Knesset Education Committee is also considering the issue of these advertisements and has established a public panel to draw up recommendations on the issue.

A bill proposed by MK Esther Salmovitz (Yitod) suggests a five-year sentence for anyone using children or the image of children in such ads; a bill by Hana Porat (National Religious Party) recommends a six-month sentence for publishing a place of prostitution or three months for publishing ads describing immoral acts.

Although Ma'ariv editor Ya'akov Erez and Ha'aretz editor Hana Mamari were present, no Yediot Aharonot representative turned up. The absence was condemned by committee chairman David Zucker. Zucker, however, recommended freezing the bills while asking the editors to exercise self-restraint, saying he was against legislation on matters concerning the press.

The discussion focused on the limits of freedom of the press and freedom of occupation when they encroach on the basic law protecting human dignity.

The editors noted that their readers have also protested the advertisements. But while Mamari, representing the Press Council, called for separating the ads from the rest of the paper rather than banning them, Erez said this is technically impractical. Mamari also stressed that children could be exposed to such services via electronic means such as Internet and cable television, not just newspapers.

Deputy Attorney-General Yehudit Karp said the attorney-general's office had asked the police to investigate specific advertisements that allegedly violate the existing anti-pornography laws.

Bromine Group warned about harmful emissions

THE Environment Ministry has issued a warning to the Bromine Group regarding repeated dangerous emissions of bromine from the group's factories, which are not being reported, as required, to the ministry.

Yesterday, it was revealed that on June 8, the day of the near-total electricity outage, there was a serious emission of bromine into the atmosphere from a plant in Sdom.

Amir Rozenblit



Absorption Minister Yair Tzaban helps inaugurate a new shooting range in Sderot yesterday. He hit the target with every shot. (Yitzhak Elharar/Scoop 80)

Knesset panel OKs funding to Beit Hapalmah

EVELYN GORDON

THE Knesset Finance Committee yesterday approved an NIS 800,000 allocation to Beit Hapalmah, despite demands from opposition MKs that the money not be transferred without the approval of State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat.

In her 1994 report, Ben-Porat scored the initial Housing Ministry allocation of NIS 1.4 million to Beit Hapalmah, and even suggested that the attorney-general open a criminal investigation into the matter. She noted that Beit Hapalmah was ineligible for government funding, because it was not a public

institution, and added that there had been an unacceptable conflict of interests, because both Housing Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer and Finance Minister Avraham Shohat were on Beit Hapalmah's board.

To get around this problem, the government decided that future allocations would be through the Defense Ministry, which handles allocations to all defense-related cultural institutions, and can therefore fund Beit Hapalmah according to standard criteria rather than

as a special allocation.

MK Silvan Shalom (Likud) asked Finance Committee chairman Gedalya Gal (Labor) to postpone the vote on the allocation until Ben-Porat confirms that all the problems she cited in her report have been corrected. However, Gal said he did not want to set a precedent of conditioning allocations on prior approval by the comptroller.

The money is being used to set up a museum in Beit Hapalmah, at a total cost of \$7.5m. The government has promised to give one-third of this sum.

Basketball player awarded damages for paper's homosexual slur

RAINE MARCUS

BASKETBALL player Shimon Amsalem was awarded NIS 150,000 by Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday because of headlines in the local weekly Ha'ir referring to him as a homosexual.

Amsalem had filed a NIS 400,000 law suit against the weekly because of the headline "Amsalem is not alone" which related to an article written about a homosexual Olympiad held in New York. After the case yesterday,

Amsalem said he had no objection to private individuals calling him a homosexual, but that a newspaper headline was particularly degrading.

Amsalem is not a homosexual, but fans often sing songs about him and other players being homosexuals to degrade them.

Ha'ir did not actually call him a homosexual, but Amsalem claimed that publishing photos of

declared homosexual sportsmen alongside the article created a demeaning association. During the trial, Ha'ir's lawyer Shlomo Lieblich said the headlines were not degrading since only basketball fans knew who Amsalem was.

But Amsalem's lawyer, Eitan Erez, argued that describing a man as a homosexual is "damaging, especially when he isn't."

Judge Sara Dotan ruled that Ha'ir's insinuations could be harmful and were demeaning.

New artifacts found at Masada

AMIR ROZENBLIT

REMNANTS of clothing, baskets, and ceramic shards with Hebrew and Latin writing are among the many finds that have been uncovered by an archeology team that renewed the digs at Masada.

Prof. Ehud Netzer, who heads the team from the Hebrew University's Archeological Institute, told reporters yesterday that the digs are an attempt to reveal sections of the mountain that were not excavated during the 1960s by the team led by Prof. Yigael Yadin.

The aim is to uncover artifacts from the time of Herod, and to further investigate the water cisterns on the mountain. Netzer said that the archeologists heading the new digs participated in Yadin's excavations.

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Series C Tel-Aviv: Wednesday, July 12th at 8:30 pm. (instead of July 29)

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Rebel Chechen gunmen release hostages

CHECHEN gunmen who carried out a week-long hostage crisis in a southern Russian city returned to Chechnya yesterday under Russian guarantees of safety and released their last hostages.

About 150 people had accompanied the Chechens as human shields on a bus trip from Budyonovsk to Chechnya after Russian authorities granted the gunmen free passage back to their homeland.

The released hostages were returning on buses to the nearby republic of Dagestan, according to the Russian Interior Ministry. The guerrillas apparently were headed for the surrounding hills.

The release occurred near Vedeno, a town in the rebel-controlled southern mountains where the gunmen had said they planned to escape, according to a report on NTV television.

Interior Ministry officials said troops were monitoring the column and would prevent the rebels from escaping.

Seven buses carrying the gunmen entered Chechnya yesterday evening after spending most of the day just over the border in Dagestan awaiting additional safety guarantees from the government. ITAR-Tass said the government provided fresh guarantees, but Moscow would not confirm the report.

Chechen commander Shamil Basayev was quoted by the Interfax news agency as saying he decided to proceed without a Russian response because he sought "the earliest release of all the remaining hostages and an end to this tragedy, taking into account the serious condition of the injured and the extreme fatigue of the hostages."

"If there are any delays en route, or any new

SERGEI SHARGORODSKY
BUDYONOVSK, Russia

changes of the route, the responsibility will be with the Russian government, which has guaranteed our group a free and safe passage," he said.

The report said Basayev was headed for Dargo, a village in the Vedeno district. Vedeno, Basayev's home town, was recently taken by Russian troops, but Chechen rebels continue to wage guerrilla war from the mountains around it.

The buses left Monday afternoon from Budyonovsk, the small southern city where the gunmen had taken about 2,000 people hostage in a hospital last Wednesday to demand an end to the war. Dozens of people were killed in the raid, and dozens more when Russian troops unsuccessfully stormed the hospital on Saturday.

Basayev, who had released more than 400 hostages over the weekend, agreed in negotiations with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin to release most of the rest on Monday. In return, Chernomyrdin guaranteed the Chechens safe passage to Chechnya, and called for a halt to military operations in the rebel republic and resumption of peace talks.

Basayev demanded the volunteer hostages, who include local officials, journalists, lawmakers, doctors, nurses and others.

In Moscow, President Boris Yeltsin, who has come under public criticism throughout the week-long hostage crisis, met in the Kremlin with Chernomyrdin.

"I see no mistakes on his part," Yeltsin told reporters, according to news agencies. He said he was in contact with the prime minister "if not each half-hour, then every hour."

(AP)

Pilot barred from marrying Princess Margaret dies

LONDON (AP) — Group Capt. Peter Townsend, the World War II fighter pilot barred from marrying Princess Margaret in the 1950s, has died, Buckingham Palace said yesterday. He was 80.

The equestrian to Margaret's father, King George VI, and then to her sister, Queen Elizabeth II, died late Monday in France.

He had lived in exile since Margaret, bowing to a disapproving establishment, decided in 1955 not to marry him because he was divorced.

"Princess Margaret was sad to learn of this news," Buckingham Palace said in a statement. The queen sent a private message of condolence to Townsend's widow.

In 1953 — Elizabeth's Coronation Year — the establishment would not countenance the marriage of a divorced commoner to the queen's sister, third in line of succession to the throne.

"You must be either mad or bad," Sir Alan Lascelles, the queen's private secretary, told Townsend.

The royal family, archbishops and cabinet ministers all became involved in the romance between Townsend and the 23-year-old princess, who was 16 years his junior.

The controversy reverberated through the country and Commonwealth of Britain and its former colonies.

French police arrest 140 suspected militants

PARIS (Reuters) — French police launched a dawn roundup of suspected Algerian and Tunisian Moslem fundamentalist militants yesterday, seizing arms and taking 140 people into custody in their fourth such swoop since the end of 1993.

Official sources said some 400 police were involved in search and arrest operations from 6 a.m. in Paris and its suburbs, the northern town of Lille and the southern city of Marseille.

They were acting on warrants issued by two anti-terrorist investigating magistrates, Jean-Louis Bruguiere and Jean-Francois Ricard, for supporters of both the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front and the Tunisian Islamic Front.

The Interior Ministry said arms had been discovered during the operation, but France 2 Televi-

sion quoted police involved as saying the haul was much smaller than in previous raids.

A judicial source called the roundup "the continuation of important investigations that have brought to light the existence on French and European soil of support networks for fundamentalists from Algeria and other Maghreb countries."

In the last two years, France's center-right government has cracked down on Algerian immigrants suspected of links with guerrilla groups fighting to overthrow the military-installed government in Algiers.

Although yesterday's swoop was not ordered by the new interior minister, Jean-Louis Debré, he has stressed he intends to pursue the hardline stance of his predecessor, Charles Pasqua.

Two Mexico City officials linked to bus line bankruptcy found dead

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A judge who had complained of irregularities in the government-declared bankruptcy of Mexico City's public bus system was found dead of a gunshot wound yesterday, authorities said.

The death revived a political scandal arising from the bankruptcy of the Route 100 bus line and followed Sunday's ambush killing of a special prosecutor investigating suspected fraud in the case.

Abraham Polo Uscanga, who

said he had resisted pressure to issue arrest warrants for the union leaders, was found dead with a single gunshot wound to the left temple, the official news agency Notimex said.

A gun was found beside the body, and authorities said it was not clear if the death was murder or a suicide.

The body was found in a ninth-floor office of a high-rise office building in the capital a day after Polo Uscanga disappeared.

On Sunday, Jesus Humberto Priego Chavez, lead prosecutor investigating the case, was found dead with a single bullet wound to the temple, authorities said.



Former Pakistan cricket captain Imran Khan and society heiress Jemima Goldsmith pose for photographers following their marriage in London yesterday. The wedding was billed as the high point of Britain's social calendar this year. (Reuters)

US high court rules parades can ban gays

MARILYN HENRY
NEW YORK

SAYING parades are a "form of expression, not just motion," the Supreme Court ruled that private groups that organize the events are allowed to decide who can march and who can't, and can ban gay groups.

The decision is not expected to affect New York's Salute to Israel Parade, which has not permitted Beth Simhat Tora, the city's gay and lesbian congregation, to march under its own banner.

"Someone who puts on a parade, which is an expressive activity, has a right to decide what they are going to communicate," said Arthur Leonard, a professor at New York Law School.

In a unanimous decision, the court ruled on Monday that the organizers of the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Boston have the right to free speech — to convey what they want to convey — and cannot be compelled to include gay and lesbian Irish-American marchers, whose message offends them.

Officials from the parade sponsor, the American Zionist Youth Foundation, were not available for comment. But Leonard, a member of Beth Simhat Tora, called the Supreme Court's decision "correct."

"The Salute to Israel Parade is clearly a political parade, because it's a parade that has a message: Salute to Israel. The people who run it have the right to decide what's in the message," he said yesterday.

"The only way for us to get in is by convincing [AZYF] that they should let us be in," Leonard said. "Someday we hope they will."

Shell bows to pressure, decides not to dump rig at sea

LONDON (Reuters) — Shell said yesterday that it had decided not to scuttle the huge disused oil rig Brent Spar at sea after all and would instead try to take it apart on land.

The oil firm finally gave in after a week of protests led by European environmental activists who described the structure as a toxic time bomb.

Britain recently gave Shell permission to dump the Brent Spar, weighing 14,500 tons and 140 meters high, in deep Atlantic waters.

But the outcry, which went as far as the Group of Seven summit in Canada last week,

proved too much. British Prime Minister John Major rebuffed a request from German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Shell, backed by the British government, went ahead with plans to sink the Brent Spar, saying analysis showed it would not damage the environment.

Then it abruptly canceled the operation in which Brent Spar was being towed from floating moorings off northeast Scotland to a site off Scotland's west coast to be buried in 2,000 meters of water.

Shell had faced a week-long public relations

blitz launched by the environmental group Greenpeace, which has resulted in criticism from government ministers, boycotts by customers and attacks on petrol stations.

"Shell UK has decided to abandon deepwater disposal and seek from the UK authorities a license for onshore disposal," the company said in a statement.

"This application for onshore disposal will include a further review of methods to minimize the risks involved," the statement said.

The Shell statement said the decision came after opposition from European governments.

Russian diplomat discusses peace plan with Serbs, Bosnians

SARAJEVO (AP) — French peacekeepers and rebel Serbs clashed briefly yesterday in a tank battle, and Russia's NATO ambassador held talks on a new peace plan with Serbian and Bosnian Serb leaders.

There was no immediate word on any casualties after Bosnian Serbs engaged French peacekeepers in the tank fight at an exposed UN observation post, UN officials said.

The French opened fire from a tank after Serbs fired 15 tank rounds at the post. The peacekeepers fired four 90-mm tank rounds before retreating from their observation post. It was the first time this year that UN soldiers had used a tank to respond to an attack.

In Belgrade, Serbia, Vitaly Churkin met for 90 minutes with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, their second meeting in two days. Neither talked to reporters.

Churkin's initiative comes after Bosnia's Moslem-led government and its Croat allies had increased battlefield pressure on the rebel Serbs to make a peace

settlement. A three-day blitz last week heralded the start of a government offensive to try to crack the siege of Sarajevo by capturing strategic heights and thus severing Serb supply routes.

But no infantry attacks have been recorded by the United Nations in and around Sarajevo since Sunday afternoon, UN spokesman Lt. Col. Gary Coward said.

Three convoys of trucks carrying 452 tons of flour, yeast and salt were turned back 20 kilometers from Sarajevo yesterday. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees said the aid trucks were stopped by Bosnian government forces who warned that conditions were too dangerous for them to continue.

One truckload of flour reached Sarajevo last week, enough for one day, but the convoys would have been the first in four weeks to reach the city.

They returned to Jablanica, 50 kilometers southwest of Sarajevo, and will try another route today, UNHCR spokesman Ron Redmond said.

Walesa defends priest in antisemitism row

WARSAW (AP) — President Lech Walesa suggested Monday that news reports have exaggerated the antisemitic content of a sermon delivered in his presence by a prominent Catholic priest and long-time friend.

"One can interpret many things in a variety of ways, [especially when] being malicious," Walesa said in a television interview. He has refused to condemn the June 11 sermon.

The Rev. Henryk Jankowski said during the mass in Gdansk that Poles should no longer tolerate "governments made up of people who failed to declare whether they come from Moscow or Israel."

Walesa said he might not have heard Jankowski clearly during the sermon at St. Brygida's Church, the president's home parish for years.

"The acoustics where I was sitting were bad," he said.

The president vehemently defended the priest: "I have known Rev. Jankowski for many years. I count him, and I think he counts me as well, as a friend. I know one thing — he is not an antisemite."

Walesa, who is up for re-election this fall, said he does not feel obliged to comment on the sermon just because American Jews demand it.

However, many leading Poles, Jew and non-Jew alike, are also demanding that Walesa condemn the remarks.

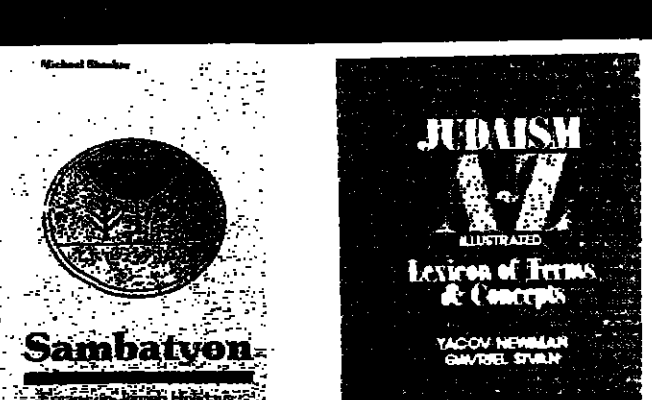
A group of Jewish students asked authorities Monday to prosecute Jankowski on charges of inciting national hatred.

In their motion, the students stressed that opinions similar to those expressed by Jankowski were hallmarks of Nazi propaganda.

Jewish leaders in Poland and abroad have said they are appalled that Walesa has not distanced himself from Jankowski's remarks, which included a "propaganda" that "the Star of David is implicated in the swastika as well as in hammer and sickle."

Rabbi Andrew Baker, European Affairs director for the American Jewish Committee, said Monday that such statements demand a response when made in the presence of a national leader.

JEWISH THOUGHT

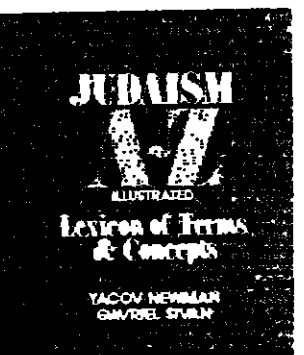


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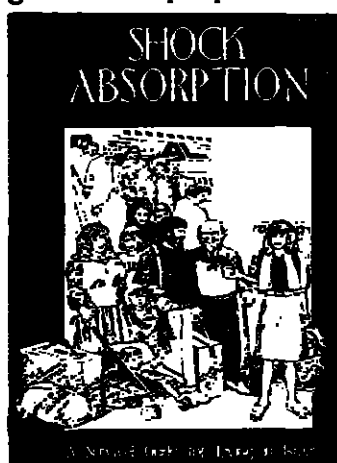
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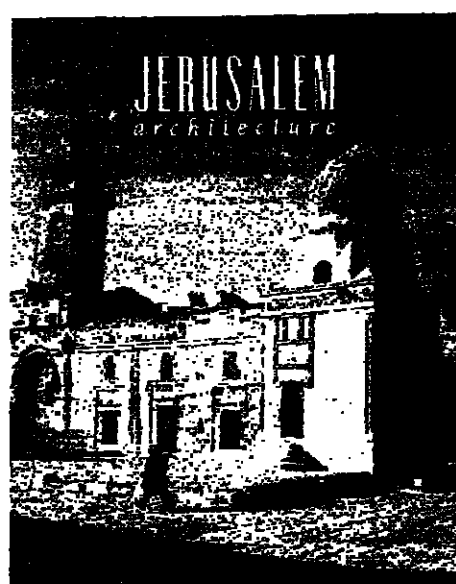
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Jerusalem

Egypt's other battle

CAIRO — As police fight armed extremists trying to force strict Islamic rule on Egypt, a less dramatic but possibly critical battle is shaping up between the government and Moslems who want to challenge it at the ballot box.

Until recently, the Moslem Brotherhood was thought to be too powerful for the government to confront. It is the largest and best organized Islamic movement, and indulging the group was seen as the government's way of undercutting the radicals.

Now, dozens of Brotherhood supporters have been jailed just months before parliamentary elections.

That raises questions about whether President Hosni Mubarak will deny a role in government even to Islamic activists who accept the democratic process.

The issue of fundamentalists in politics is one of the most crucial in the Arab world. In Algeria, a fundamentalist movement was squelched as it was about to win elections, leading to three years of bloodshed. In Jordan, King Hussein allowed his Moslem rivals into parliament, then outfoxed them.

But what happens in Egypt could have broader implications, because of the country's leadership role in the Arab world.

The Brotherhood wants an Egypt ruled by Islamic law. But the group's leaders say that unlike the extremists — whose three-year campaign of violence is aimed at destroying Egypt's secular system — they believe change should come by persuading the voters.

Liberal intellectuals distrust the Brotherhood's supposed moderation. They charge that the group also would force Islamic strictures on all Egyptians.

Although the Brotherhood would not expect to win control of the 444-member Parliament, it could rob Mubarak of the two-thirds vote needed for him to seek a fourth term in 1999 — in case he is thinking of that.

Egypt's Brotherhood is a political oddity. It is officially illegal and cannot run candidates because the constitution forbids religious parties.

But in fact, the Brotherhood operates openly, and its supporters have served in Parliament under the banner of other parties.

It also controls more than half of Egypt's powerful professional unions. The Brotherhood is estimated to have 100,000 members and perhaps 1 million supporters.

Nabil Abdel-Fattah, an analyst at the al-Ahram Center for Strategic Studies, said the Brotherhood's biggest achievement is its considerable backing among middle class Egyptians disenchanted by economic problems and government corruption.

"It's safe to say we are facing a social movement much bigger than was believed," he said. The Brotherhood has no doubt that the growing number of arrests since January is an attempt to link it to the radicals and then keep its supporters out of elections for the People's Assembly.

The vote is expected in November. (AP)



Gholamreza Aghazadeh, Iran's petroleum minister, yawns Monday during the opening session of the 98th meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries in Vienna. (AP)

OPEC bemoans oversupply

News agencies
VIENNA

OPEC, the once-mighty oil cartel that made the world tremble, raised little more than a yawn this week as it launched into a tirade against output from other producers pushing down prices.

OPEC members played down their own overproduction.

Indonesian oil minister Ida Bagus Sudjana blamed competitors, such as oil companies operating in the North Sea, for taking "the lion's share" of the world's appetite for oil.

"Oversupply will lead to lower oil prices," Sudjana said in an address that opened the summer meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Oil traders responded by pushing crude oil down by around 50 cents a barrel early on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Norway, singled out for OPEC criticism, reiterated it had no plans to cut production.

"We don't rule out the possibility of cutting oil production but this is not something we are contemplating for the time being," said Anne Ekern, a spokesman for the Industry and Energy Ministry.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, at its meeting in Vienna, had challenged producers outside the group to join in a defense of the oil price.

Saudi Arabia's influential oil minister, Hisham Nazer, plans to travel to Norway to meet with his

Norwegian counterpart, Jens Stoltenberg.

OPEC members have previously complained to Britain and Norway about rising output in the North Sea, but they got no satisfaction.

"I wish him the best of luck," said Qatar's oil minister, Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiah. Stoltenberg has said Norway is interested in expanding contacts with OPEC and Saudi Arabia but that it will not commit itself to measures aimed at stabilizing oil prices.

Norway is set to pump a record three million barrels per day of North Sea crude and out OPEC member Iran as the world's biggest oil exporter after Saudi Arabia by the end of the year.

Asked about the prospects for cooperation from the non-OPEC producers, Al-Attiah said: "I'm not optimistic, not pessimistic — I'm realistic." With no talk of changing OPEC's production ceiling of 24.5 million barrels a day, or the quotas of individual members, oil ministers were launching plenty of verbal attacks, but few if any proposed solutions, for their dilemma with the non-OPEC producers.

"They've been taking a free ride for so long," Libyan oil minister Abdalla Salem El-Badri said. "I hope they realize that

someday they'll have to cooperate with us."

OPEC members are Algeria, Gabon, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Venezuela.

A confidential OPEC report leaked by Reuters estimated the group is pumping around 300,000 bpd above its 24.52 million bpd quota set to run to the end of the year. Other analysts put the figure closer to 500,000 bpd.

But OPEC does not see that as the main issue and is expected to leave its ceiling and individual quotas in place until it meets again late this year.

Oil prices have been firmer this spring, both because of growing demand and restrained production by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, although OPEC is still fetching well under its target of \$21 for the average barrel of crude.

Iraq is also producing a mere fraction of its capacity, because of the embargo on its oil exports since the invasion of Kuwait.

Iraqi oil minister Safa Hadi Jawad said his country is complying with UN conditions for renewed oil sales, and expects to be back in the market by year end.

The group is also set to shrink to 11 members as it sheds Gabon. The small 287,000-bpd West African producer left an empty chair at the talks after protesting it could no longer afford the \$1.8 million annual membership fee to stay in the oil barons' club.

Fatah rides populism with prisoner issue

LAMIA LAHOUD

THE Fatah Higher Council this week opened a campaign to push for the release of Palestinian prisoners and to publicize a hunger strike launched by them.

The open-ended strike called by the Fatah Prisoners Committee started Sunday.

Marwan Barghouti, director-general of the council in the territories, said the strikers are demanding a timetable for the release of all prisoners, starting with women, the sick, the elderly, 13- to 19-year-olds, those who have served more than 10 years and those taken in operations at sea or in Lebanon.

On Monday Fatah organized the first demonstration in Jericho in support of freeing prisoners and on Friday it plans a protest march to the prison in Nablus. Fatah also called for a general strike Friday in all the territories and in eastern Jerusalem.

"All activities to press for the release of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails are organized by Fatah, but all factions are taking part," Barghouti said.

He said Fatah wants Palestinian negotiators to make the prisoner issue a priority in this week's talks on redeployment, elections and the transfer of authority.

The timing of the strike was directly linked to the negotiations and to the approaching July 1 deadline for an agreement on IDF redeployment, he added.

"We do not want to sign another agreement with the Israelis without a timetable for freeing prisoners."

Fatah leaders said they would not seek to make the prisoners a condition for continuing the redeployment talks.

MAHMOUD DAHLAN, head of the Palestinian Preventive Security Service in Gaza, said this week's talks would proceed as usual.

Dahlan said groups opposed to the autonomy agreement, including Hamas, have been using Israel's reluctance to free more prisoners as a means to incite public sentiment against the PA and the autonomy agreement.

He said Hamas was accusing the PA of arresting Hamas activists while not doing anything to free Palestinians in Israeli jails.

Ahmed Edik, a member of the Fatah Higher Council, also stressed the importance of a prisoner release. He said Fatah and the PA were under immense public pressure to get some Israeli commitment on releasing prisoners.

"The people are asking us what kind of peace agreement we are signing with Israel which ignores the prisoners, and especially those from Fatah who support the peace process and the autonomy accord."

Edik said it was not enough to convene the prisoners' subcommittee.

Prisoners are serious about the hunger strike, he said, and they need to see some serious measures — such as a promise to free prisoners on the day of a redeployment agreement, along with some kind of timetable for the rest, in particular those from Fatah and other PLO groups.

Edik said Yasser Arafat and the PA backed the demand for a staggered prisoner release, but the PA had been slow to pressure the Israelis.

"The prisoners themselves are smart to choose this time of intense negotiations on the redeployment for their hunger strike," he said. "They know this

will put Palestinian negotiators under a lot of pressure."

Barghouti said the hunger strike was initiated by PLO prisoners, and Fatah members were the driving force. He met prisoners two weeks ago to discuss what action could be taken to bring their case to the forefront of the official negotiations.

He said Fatah prisoners in particular do not understand why they are still in prison, since they support the PA and the peace process.

Of an estimated 5,500 prisoners, some 1,800 are Fatah; 100 were convicted of killing Israelis, Barghouti said.

Fatah activists said that while the hunger strikers were seeking freedom for all prisoners, they conceded that the biggest problem was the peace-supporting PLO inmates.

Fatah has followed its campaign on the Jerusalem land-expropriation dispute with this latest flurry of activism on a matter loaded with public sentiment.

Activists admit they are keeping up the momentum to win more popular support and build their credibility in the territories before the PA takes over these population centers from the IDF and the Civil Administration.

While Fatah backs the PA and wants to prepare the ground for it, it is also important for Fatah itself to avoid being ignored or swallowed by the PA after redeployment.

Fatah is also looking to protect its power base. Hence the faction seizes on issues most emotive to ordinary Palestinians, such as land confiscations and prisoners.

In taking the lead on them, Fatah sources say it is indeed working to snatch such populist issues from the hands of opposition groups.

Iranian general defects



experts, including Israelis, argue that with some of the world's largest oil and gas resources, Iran's purchase of obsolescent nuclear facilities from Russia and China doesn't make sense.

Islamic Revolution said documents taken by the defecting general were brought back to Moscow by Clinton and shown to Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

After the meeting, Yeltsin agreed to scrap the part of the deal selling Iran a gas centrifuge that could be used to make weapons-grade material.

So far, the Iranian authorities have been silent on the story of the defection, but that is no surprise to experts familiar with the mullah-shrouded secrecy of the Tehran hierarchy. The defection will be a severe blow to the prestige of the rulers at a time when Iran is coming under more concentrated international pressure.

SOME 86,000 Iranians were arrested and more than a million

subjected to some form of torture during 1994, according to a release from the press bureau of the dissident Iranian organization Majdahi this week.

The report said the aim of the repression was to oppress and humiliate the voices of opposition amid a growing tide of popular demands for an end to the tight control exercised by the regime over public expression.

The report said it is commonplace for Iranian forces to open fire during demonstrations, which erupt frequently in Tehran.

The report, citing reliable sources in the capital, said in one day security forces arrested 4,000 protesters.

It said most penalties imposed on dissidents contradict every norm of international agreements and covenants and some of the worst means of torture are routinely applied to those who run afoul of the regime.

A REPORTER from the "Iraqi Broadcasting Authority," an internal opposition organization, said this week that conflicts have spread deep inside the ruling Baghdad clique, creating an almost permanent state of crisis.

In the latest round of bickering, Saddam Hussein fired his half-brother Vatan Alakruti from his post as interior-affairs minister.

Arafat lets PLO in Tunis wither away

DONNA ABU-NASR
TUNIS

THE most striking feature of the PLO headquarters in Tunis is the silence.

The only bustle comes from the kitchen, where mint tea and thick, black coffee are brewed. The lack of activity underlines the fading influence of the PLO, which once controlled a billion-dollar financial empire and had an army equipped with tanks, artillery and missiles.

Yasser Arafat, who headed the movement since 1968 from Jordan, then Lebanon and finally Tunisia, has allowed the PLO to wither since the Oslo Accord was signed on September 13, 1993.

Power and money have gradually shifted to the Palestinian Authority in Gaza and Jericho.

"Yasser Arafat has Palestine in his briefcase. Wherever he goes, it goes with him," said Ahmed Abu Ismail, who works at the PLO's propaganda office.

The PLO headquarters in Tunis — once so important that the IDF bombed it in October 1985, killing 73 Palestinians and Tunisians — is now a skeleton scattered in four or five villas across Tunis.

Once numbering more than 1,000, the PLO staff has shrunk to less than 100. The old fighters-turned-bureaucrats who stayed behind oppose either the peace accord or the way Arafat is implementing it.

"The Palestinian Authority is a local government that was set up

as an adventurous experiment to test Israel's intentions for peace," said Farouk Kaddoumi, the PLO's foreign minister. "A year has passed since the accord was implemented. It has not achieved anything. It has only proved that Israel does not want peace."

Most PLO offices have closed. Its 90 embassies will be reduced because the organization cannot pay for them. PLO diplomats in Geneva were ejected from their offices because they could not pay the rent. The phones at some Tunis offices occasionally are shut off because the bills have not been paid.

One sign that Arafat has no plans to spend time in Tunis is his own villa. Tiles covering a section of its facade are unwashed, the white walls are peeling, plants in the tiny garden are dry.

The lack of work has given PLO officials time to help out at home — they change diapers, feed their children, do housework. They anxiously wait for travelers from Gaza, lapping up gossip — and jokes — about the doings in the self-rule zones.

They also live in constant fear their salaries will stop.

"We're jobless employees now," said Hamad Abu Ismail,

who works in the propaganda office surrounded by bored colleagues spending office hours smoking and drinking coffee.

Arafat's supporters say the disgruntled bureaucrats have not done enough to keep the PLO in the limelight.

"All they do is sit in front of the television and criticize us," said Yasser Amr, minister of education in the Palestinian Authority.

"I may make mistakes. But at least I'm working," he added. "If you just sit in Tunis drinking tea, people will forget you."

The PLO once set as its main goal the return of what Palestinians estimate as two million refugees and their descendants who were uprooted in wars against Israel from 1948.

The fear in Tunis is that this goal is in jeopardy.

Talks on the final status of refugees are set for 1996, but dissidents contend the self-rule government is too weak to fight for the refugees in negotiations with Israel. (AP)

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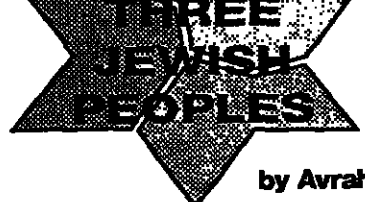
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Debate in Budyonovsk

THE sting in the tail of the old Soviet Union's long support for international terrorism came this week when one of the worst terrorist attacks of the century took place on Russian soil. This fact gave no cause for Western gloating, however - the Soviet Union is dead, Russia is a new democracy, and the tragedy of the hostages in Budyonovsk was a gripping story which won worldwide sympathy. But, as in many other corners of the world, the legacy of Cold War and communist dictatorship is still not spent, even if both have expired.

The taking of the 2,000 civilian hostages in a hospital inside Russia and far removed from the scene of the Chechnya war was a classic piece of diversionary terrorism, reminiscent of the same tactics once used by the PLO in places far from the Middle East. Former Soviet leaders used to excuse such acts as "an unfortunate, but understandable, attempt to draw world attention to the plight of the..." etc., etc.

After the first flush of successes by hijackers and bombers who took an unprepared world by surprise, politicians soon learned the lesson that caving into terrorist demands and bartering hostages to meet them was counterproductive way of dealing with international terror. Concessions merely spread the anarchy among other groups who learned if they were tough enough and their demands outrageous enough, most authorities were ready to bargain.

In the end, it became obvious that the approach pioneered by Israel - no deals with terrorism, and swift retaliation - was the only one that worked. There were tragic losses of innocent life during rescue operations, even during the raid on Entebbe and in the more recent case of Nahshon Wachsmann, but few - even former hostages - now doubt the uncompromising stand is the correct one, as long as it is planned meticulously and handled decisively.

Unfortunately, like the American assault on the Waco cult, the Russian handling of the Budyonovsk affair was a shambles. It is likely to have grim political repercussions. By far the most serious is the growing public unease in Russia about the state of mind of President Boris Yeltsin. In the past year, several less serious incidents involving the president have embarrassed both the Russian establishment and the public - among them his outlandish drunken performance at an official function in Berlin and his failure to get off a plane in Ireland to be received by the state prime minister and an honor guard.

Much more troubling, because of loss of human lives, has been the disastrous Chechen war and now the hostage crisis at Budyonovsk hospital. If any indication was needed of how

far the president's demeanor has crumbled, it was only necessary to compare the cool and focused performance of Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin negotiating with the Chechen terrorist group on television, with the emotional, incoherent ramblings of Yeltsin at the Group of Seven news conference in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Yeltsin took responsibility for ordering the clearly disastrous frontal assault on the hospital which killed dozens of hostages and which was the exact opposite of the type of swift, efficient operation that has been tested and tried by Israeli, British, German and French special forces in such situations. On his return to Moscow, Yeltsin made another incomprehensible speech on television and then lapsed into silence. The demoralizing sight of hostages screaming that indiscriminate Russian shelling, not terrorist guns, were killing them, led to the next humiliation - a total capitulation by the authorities to the demands of the terrorists.

Not only did the Chechen invaders get their buses, human shields and safe passage for a triumphant return to Chechnya, but they achieved a Russian cease-fire in the continuing war. In the short term at least, this was not only one of the biggest terrorist operations of modern times, but one of the most successful. Unfortunately, that will be little comfort to the relatives of more than 100 victims of the terrorist assault and subsequent Russian blundering.

Yeltsin has not heard the last of the affair. While Chernomyrdin obviously salvaged what he could - particularly the lives of 1,500 hostages - from the debacle, and has gathered some criticism as well as praise, the wrath of the Russians against the president is only now beginning to mount. Most commentators agreed yesterday that the country was shocked, humiliated and very angry indeed, and newspapers spoke of a week of national shame. It is a sad decline for Yeltsin, whose heroic defense of Moscow during a communist coup against former president Mikhail Gorbachev made him an international and domestic hero and put Russia firmly on the road to democracy.

However, neither Yeltsin nor Russia can afford many more disasters on the scale of Chechnya or the recent terrorist outrage - nothing is more likely to boost the ultra-nationalist camp or fuel demands for strong and decisive leadership, probably of the wrong sort. It is time for Boris Yeltsin to consider doing his own people and the international community one last great favor by stepping down from office. In general, and in better days, he has done his country proud. It would be no shame for him to admit it is now time to go.

Diplomacy



Ignorance isn't bliss

AARON LERNER

I hope that Rabin hasn't yet made a decision to return the entire Golan. There is no mandate for a concession like that. There isn't even a mandate to come to the people with a proposal for peace... without offering creative solutions, like a 50-year lease of the Golan.

These aren't the words of someone on the Golan Committee, they aren't even from (almost) renegade Labor MK Avigdor Kahalani.

They came from the Minister of Economics and Religious Affairs Shimon Shetret, during the cabinet meeting on June 11.

Foreign Minister Peres and Prime Minister Rabin have been talking about a complete withdrawal from the Golan for some time, and here we have Minister Shetret talking as if nothing has changed since the Labor Party adopted its platform in 1992.

As the platform states: "Israel considers the Golan Heights an area of the greatest importance for its security and safety, and for safeguarding its water sources, in peacetime too. On the Golan Heights, where the law, jurisdiction and authority of Israel is in effect, Israeli settlement and military presence and control will continue in any peace agreement and security arrangement with Syria."

Why is Shetret content, as Environment Minister Yossi Sarid has put it, to "bark at the passing parade"? Why isn't he doing more? Just as serious, it appears that, almost to a man, the ministers haven't any real clue about what is going on in the negotiations with either Syria or the Palestinians.

Presidents Assad and Clinton

and their staffs have copies of the "unwritten" security understanding between Israel and Syria; but the cabinet hasn't seen it, nor has it asked to be let in on the secret.

Neither have the ministers had a chance to review the redeployment plans on the West Bank, which have already been presented to Arafat.

There is no doubt that many ministers may be feeling that "ignorance is bliss." After all, Shetret and others might have problems supporting the government if it formally announced what its

Will Labor's hawks continue to sit by as the country is led to perdition?

leaders are already openly saying, that it plans a complete withdrawal from the Golan.

These ministers, and other Labor MKs, can still find solace in the knowledge that they remain loyal to the Labor Party platform which got them elected in the first place.

BUT THE party platform is dead. In fact, Labor is refusing even to discuss revising it now, because it knows that once the government's policies are put into writing, many MKs will be left with no honorable choice but to bolt.

Today Shetret and others who oppose complete withdrawal from the Golan are nothing more than kashrut supervisors in a restaurant

which serves shrimp but hasn't put it on the menu.

Why haven't these ministers taken action? After all, it would take only a handful of like-minded Labor MKs to bring the government down in a no-confidence vote.

Some argue that the Labor MKs and ministers see party loyalty as their ultimate duty - but Israeli politics is full of MKs who have switched parties. Maybe some of these Laborites really believe it when they tell the cameras that they "count on Rabin," as they march forward with eyes closed.

There could be a more basic explanation: these Laborites' secular messianic faith in an all-powerful IDF which can ultimately win in any battle, from any line. With that belief, everything else falls into place: After all, while a given agreement may mean more losses in a future war, it can never doom the Jewish state to destruction.

But policy cannot be based on mysticism. It is a principle of Judaism not to count on miracles. It is sound policy.

Will the Labor hawks continue to sit by as the country is led to perdition? With the primary system, it may turn out that the only way these MKs can survive politically is by turning against their own party.

The party's leftists won't support its "hawks," and it is far from clear that those who oppose the radical moves of the Rabin government will be inclined to support politicians who opted to "bark at the parade" rather than halt it.

The writer is an associate of IMRA - Independent Media Review & Analysis.

Dump a dad

ANNE P. MITCHELL
WOLFGANG HIRCHY

IT is no longer true that the majority of American children will grow up in a home enriched by the comforting love and steady guidance of a father.

Some 30 percent of children are born into families with single mothers, and of those kids who start out in two-parent homes, more than half will end up with divorced parents. When the family unit breaks down, chances are it will be dad who is shown the door.

Why can't Johnny read? Why is Billy carrying a semi-automatic weapon to school? Why is Susie selling rock cocaine during recess?

The answer is that US society has developed a deeply embedded, government-sponsored legacy of fatherlessness.

Politicians can complain all they want about "deadbeat dads" who abandon their families. But hidden in their policies is a flagrant bias that says quite plainly: Dads are not important to American families.

In courtrooms across the nation, child custody is almost always awarded solely to the mother, while the father typically is left with visitor status or weekend sojourns.

This is bad not only for children's social development, but for their economic status as well, since it is now well established that the more time a father is allowed to spend with his children, the more likely he is to keep up his child-support payments.

In many states, in order for a mother to qualify for Aid to Families With Dependent Children, the father must not be living in or contributing to the family household. Dump a dad, get a check.

Too often, without enough consideration of the facts, the message to women is simply, "Get rid of that guy," and the message to that guy is "You are disposable."

The message in US society: fathers are disposable

Many blame the current anti-father climate on the feminist movement, with its dogmatic dictum that says fathers aren't really necessary to form a family any more. Others say it is the fathers who are at fault for running off to a life of unfettered hedonistic pleasure.

WOMEN ARE rewarded for playing the role of helpless single mom; the more needy they appear, the more the system will reward them.

She can't work? That's okay, we'll get more money from him. She's not really capable of caring for the children? Not to worry, we'll get dad to pay for child care too.

Something needs to be done to reverse this trend, and to get men repatriated into their children's lives.

The formula is simple enough: Bring back dads. It is the most direct and effective answer to the problem of controlling skyrocketing youth crime. It will yield dividends as children who are the product of two caring parents develop into well-adjusted and productive members of society.

It will provide children with an increased sense of security, worth and belonging, while at the same time increasing support compliance with no additional cost of enforcement.

Fortunately, there is evidence that a few policy-makers are beginning to see that fathers are important to the well-being and healthy development of their children, and believe that the government must stop pushing them away from their families. Some are even starting to suggest that the government can and should take positive steps to encourage father-involved parenting.

But much work still needs to be done.

We hear from the highest levels of government concern about the responsibilities of mothers and fathers, but missing is leadership recognition of the pandemic of fatherlessness, and how government has been contributing to its spread.

This, the week of Father's Day in the US, isn't a bad time to start making dads once again as indispensable and as American as motherhood and apple pie.

(Washington Post)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MISPLACED PRAISE

Sir, - In Steve Rodan's article of June 9 on Dr. Fathi Arafat, founder and head of the PLO's Palestinian Red Crescent Society and brother of Yasser Arafat, the good doctor thrice claimed "I am not political."

"The lady doth protest too much" is an apt saying and fits him well. In spite of the generous praise by his collegial Israeli groupies, such as the psychiatrist Rubama Maron ("He is a very warm man. He is very generous"), or Prof. Daniel Weinstein, head of the Obstetrics Division of the Hadassah-University Hospital (Judy Siegel, September 21, 1994), who showed him around the hospital as an honored guest ("a potential Nobel Peace Prize candidate in the future"), there is another side to this great healer's character: he's a liar.

NEW DANGER AT THE BEACH

Sir, - I have recently moved to Ashkelon from the Negev and was looking forward to spending many happy hours on the beach with my wife and young family. However, as probably anyone who regularly visits our Mediterranean beaches will testify, a new phenomenon has taken hold - all-terrain vehicles.

Many popular stretches of beach have virtually been turned into race tracks, with ATVs dashing through the smallest of gaps between bathers, spraying sand everywhere, frightening children, creating a terrible noise and, more important, presenting a very real danger to life and limb. I have witnessed a near accident on two occasions, one involving my own daughter, and I am convinced that it is only a matter of time before we experience a real tragedy.

I would therefore suggest that we seriously consider regulating the use of these vehicles on bathing beaches by either imposing a speed limit, banning them altogether, or perhaps more practically, allocating stretches of beach for this activity.

MARK THORNER

Ashkelon

DOUBLE STANDARD

Sir, - Although Hareven demands that Israel spend my (our) tax money on improving the situation in the Gaza Strip ("Beyond the fence into hell," June 2). I would refer the writer to an excellent editorial published in *The Jerusalem Post* on May 2, 1994. Entitled "Leaving Gaza," it details the incredible improvements brought about in the area over the years by the Israeli administration. Let Mr. Hareven then compare these facts with the Egyptians did between 1948 and 1967 when they mistreated harshly, keeping their fellow Moslems like prisoners, creating neither jobs nor hope.

I recall visiting Gaza in the Eighties and seeing the lovely cheap houses and apartments that we were constructing for the refugees. However, the Arab states, with the help of the UN, put paid to our efforts. They wanted to continue using their brethren as political pawns.

In contrast, and without the benefit of oil billions, Israel absorbed and integrated hundreds of thousands of persecuted Jews from Arab countries - who left behind personal and communal property valued at billions of dollars. Is there one Arab who is willing to stand up and express regret over the injustices they inflicted on the Jews?

That is why Mr. Hareven's double standard of morality sounds so hollow. The Arabs, their vast land holdings and natural resources, cannot absorb the refugees caused by their own acts of aggression while the Jewish State, which was very poor in the days of mass immigration in the late Forties and Fifties, helped Jews from Arab countries overcome the trauma of change and suffering. Instead of taking the Arabs to task for the inhumanity of failing to dedicate even a minute percentage of their vast oil incomes to helping their own brethren and for not compensating Jews from Arab countries, Hareven places the moral load on our shoulders. This is a distortion of morality that typifies the liberal left in the West.

MALKA HILLEL SHULEWITZ
Jerusalem

POLITICAL VIOLENCE

Sir, - Let me add my voice to those denouncing the physical assault on Shulamit Aloni in New York. It is indeed deplorable to have to fear threats of violence or to endure bodily harm simply because one holds an unpopular opinion. It runs counter to every Western and democratic value.

I have no doubt that this experience will give Ms. Aloni the opportunity to ponder political violence in all its ramifications.

Perhaps the pain and humiliation she has undergone will enable her to empathize with the experiences of the elderly women and teenage girls dragged off the streets of Jerusalem for daring to voice an opinion counter to the government's. Maybe she can now understand the trepidation of those facing horses and water cannon for exercising their right to participate in political demonstration.

Ms. Aloni is correct when she says that keeping silent in the face of threats means giving in to boogymen and leads to fascism. I look forward to her future support of every person's right to express themselves without fear.

LAURA WOOLF

Ma'aleh Adumim

A bitter, painful irony

MANFRED KLAFTER

THE 50-year commemoration of the liberation of Europe after World War II is now behind us. Until the next significant date - 60 years after Seventy-five? - the pageantry has been packed away.

For most of the world, the ceremonies recalled the dangers of totalitarianism, and made people aware of the infinite importance of peace.

For Holocaust survivors in Israel, the anniversary commemorations underlined a bittersweet realization: Most of the world, in its willingness to remember, has embraced a responsibility to those who survived the Nazi horrors of World War II.

Yet our own country, which has pledged refuge for any Jew, remains curiously indifferent to the survivors' situation.

For many survivors and their families, the Holocaust never ended. Under the fragile veneer of normal, rebuilt lives, terrifying memories and unresolved feelings of loss threaten to break through the surface at any time.

This reality is well understood in Europe, where numerous mental health setups offer psychological services designed specifically for survivors and their families.

In my capacity as president of AMCHA, Israel's organization for psychological and social services to the nation's 300,000 survivors, I have borne witness to an outpouring of moral and financial support from a host of European sources.

The European Commission has expressed its "renewed identification with the hundreds of Israelis who, daily, still carry the scars of the Holocaust," through a generous grant to AMCHA.

The Austrian and Dutch governments have conducted sweeping fundraising activities for our organization, and forwarded

funds for our ongoing counseling and documentation activities. These grow constantly as more survivors seek help in reconciling themselves with their pasts.

I recently met with Pope John Paul II in Rome. He was keenly interested in the work being carried out to assist survivors, and was surprised to learn that the second generation, too, suffers from the pain of their survivor-parents.

Even the International Red Cross has come forth, for the first time after half a century, to accords

Israel seems indifferent to the situation of its Holocaust survivors

knowledge a "moral failure" during World War II, declaring that "today's International Committee can only regret the possible omissions and errors of the past."

AGAINST THIS backdrop, it is terribly ironic to note that the Israeli government has seen fit to cut back its financial support of mental health services to survivors.

It was only three years ago that the Ministry of Health, after much persuasion, finally agreed to aid AMCHA, beginning with a partial subsidy geared toward the covering the rent of AMCHA branches in Haifa, Jerusalem, and Ramat Gan. The allocation was increased to the almost-symbolic sum of NIS 600,000.

Today, although the demand for AMCHA's services has increased by as much as 25 percent, and an additional branch has

been established in Beersheba, that sum has been cut to NIS 490,000. It will likely be cut even further.

If our own government doesn't recognize our legitimate need, how can we expect the world to continue to support us?

Fifty years ago, when Israel was a nation in formation, there was little time or sympathy for those who had suffered at the hands of the Nazis, but survived. Out of necessity, the survivors repressed their past and built new lives and new families. But now the past is catching up with them.

Haven't we matured enough as a nation to be able to see the survivors' pain? Aren't we strong enough now in our national identity to ease their suffering in the remaining years of their lives?

When it comes to caring for its Holocaust survivors, shouldn't Israel truly be a light unto the nations, instead of just a dim spot next to the bright promise of the rest of the world?

The writer, a Dutch-born survivor, serves as president of AMCHA, the National Israeli Center for Psychosocial Support of Survivors of the Holocaust and the Second Generation.

POSTSCRIPT

A ROBBERY suspect who tried to swallow some incriminating evidence choked to death on a \$50 bill.

The man collapsed in the back seat of a Buffalo, New York, patrol car about an hour after he was caught in a robbery.

Before collapsing, the robber complained of asthma. He was taken to the hospital, where he died.

The robber had attacked a woman in a supermarket parking lot.

It's no joke: She uses humor to teach peace

US educator Maureen Kushner helps pupils cross the borders of old stereotypes Jolie Greiff, writes

THE students are asked to call out words they associate with war and violence. The words fly thick and fast as the teacher writes them on the board: "Blood, hatred, fear, gas masks, sorrow, anger."

Arab students always list "separation" as well as severely violent words like "hanging, starvation, suicide, and assassination," words absent in the Jews' vocabulary.

Jews list terrorist attacks, a phrase not mentioned by Arabs. Teacher Maureen Kushner then asks for words of peace. These are less forthcoming from both populations; but with prodding, the students respond. Friendship, love, kindness, sharing, open borders. The Arab students always list "economic prosperity" and "employment" as well.

As the school year ends, Kushner, 45, is wrapping up a one-year peace mission. Since February, she has taught Jewish and Arab children in 28 schools from Galilee to the Negev, and has conducted teacher-training workshops.

Kushner came here from her native New York when she was commissioned by the Education Ministry to teach this year's theme of peace.

She puts novel twists into teaching, using such methods as word association, cartooning, art projects and humor. She teaches peace through a poem about friendship between Jews and Arabs throughout history, such as Abraham and Melchizedek, King Solomon and King Hiram of Lebanon.

"I developed the methodology of 'learning through laughter' because I saw how children respond easily to humor," Kushner explains. "Humor requires making associations, understanding plays on words. If I can get a kid to think, then I can get him to learn."

Her methods, which have been taught to hundreds of educators here and in the US, have been practiced on very challenging subjects: she has more than 20 years' experience teaching underprivileged elementary-school children in a tough part of New York.

She teaches her Jewish audience in less-than-perfect Hebrew gained mostly from a six-month stay on a kibbutz when she was 17. Her limited knowledge of Arabic comes from a month's stint as an art teacher at a refugee camp in the Gaza Strip in 1982.

Kushner's language limitations don't seem to hamper her work. Kamal Khateb, principal of the



At the elementary school in Jerusalem's Pisgat Ze'ev, Maureen Kushner helps pupils put the finishing touches on a peace project. (Karen Bezzian)

elementary school in Jaljuliya village near Kfar Sava, says that "Maureen truly motivated [the children] - she's magical."

WHEN KUSHNER enters a room, she captivates her audience. "You think I don't know about issues of war and peace?" she begins. "Well, let me tell you about the neighborhood I work in, Washington Heights," she says. "Drugs are everywhere... even hidden in baby carriages. 'Where there are drugs,' she continues, 'there is violence.'"

She asks the students to pick one word of peace and one of war and to illustrate them in a novel way. "Humor - looking at things from another perspective," she says. "Is the key."

"As soon as you use the word 'comedy' or 'humor,' there's a spark. Their antennas go up."

One child draws the word "destruction" with the letters crumbling. Two teachers shape the letters of weapon into a gun, far larger than the soldier who bears it. The words of peace are whimsical, full of flowers, houses and birds, all smiling, shaking hands, singing.

"Name elements which lead to peace," she challenges. Respect. Honesty. Kindness. Sharing. The list grows, and the concept of

peace expands. The classroom is abuzz. At the end of the exercise the students create a story using all the words.

"I'm not a Mary Poppins," Kushner says. "I try to get the children to dream a true vision of peace, based on kindness. Through kindness, which was the main attribute of Abraham - who is so important to both peoples - we can bring about peace."

Nili Hocherman, sixth-grade teacher at the Masada school in Jerusalem, says: "Maureen's enthusiasm was contagious, and she got the students very enthusiastic. She opened their imaginations, and dared them to be confident in their work. She addressed their abilities immediately and got them to give their best."

Orna Tiv, an art teacher from Harishonim school in Ma'alot, expands on this. "Maureen got the kids farther and farther, step by step. First, she'd have them do a pencil sketch. Then she'd get them to add to it. Finally they'd get to the drawing with color. They're not used to doing so many steps. Sometimes a child will have an idea but not go far with it. Maureen helped them to go farther."

Kushner tells of an eight-year-old at the Ahavat Yisrael school in Jerusalem who drew fences.

Kushner asked her to expand the idea of a border. The girl added a few flowers. "Do you think they add hope to the picture?" Kushner prodded. "No," the girl said. "What if you take away the flowers, is there less hope then?" The girl conceded that, yes, there would be less hope without the flowers. She drew more flowers, and a boy and a girl giving a heart to a soldier.

"The picture changed from great fear to great hope," Kushner says triumphantly. "The girl began to think of the meaning of fences and borders, then she put children on each side of the fence, and they waved at each other."

IT WAS Prof. Moshe Caspi who urged the Education Ministry to invite Kushner.

Caspi, of the Hebrew University School of Education and founder of the Institute for Experimental and Creative Education in Israel, has been acquainted with Kushner for over 10 years.

"Maureen is one of the few teachers I know who knows how to work with emotions, feelings, deep wishes and wishful thinking," Caspi says. "In Israel, we don't know how to use these tools to teach serious subjects."

"Maureen uses a wonderful balance between the soft line emotions and a hard line precision of expression of form. She doesn't allow for foolishness. She allows the students to express their forbidden thoughts about the subject."

But why import a teacher from abroad? Is there no one in Israel who could do the job? "Because Maureen is one of the few teachers in the world who knows how to teach," Caspi responds.

Dalia Goren, the Education Ministry's coordinator of the theme of the year, explains further: "We brought in Maureen not because we're not competent but because she is so Zionist - she's planning on making aliya - and she's so right for the task."

So right, in fact, that the her students' artwork is tentatively scheduled for exhibition at the Knesset after it returns from its display at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City during July and August.

A central feature of the display

is the "Happy Tree," a mural of biblical visions of peace, created by children aged five to 11 at the elementary school in Jerusalem's Jewish Quarter. The branches of the tree spell "shalom," and are adorned with characters from Isaiah's prophecies in humorous scenes - including lions and lambs picnicking together, beavers of angels involved in whimsical activities, red heifers congregating, and a parade of white donkeys ridden by children.

When asked about her work on the Happy Tree, Michal Luxemburg, 9½, replies: "When I make the things [to put on the tree], I have a feeling that I'm bringing peace closer. People will see it and it will bring them closer to peace too."

Kushner concludes: "Shlomo Carlebach once said: 'There will never be peace in the world unless people see the holiness in children.' Here in Israel, I've seen the holiness, and the magic, and the warmth, and the beauty of all children."

Talking peace - in English

WHEN the Education Ministry chose peace as the school year's theme, Carla Nochomovitz went beyond just talking about it.

She created a vehicle for Jews and Arabs in the Negev to meet, to dispel stereotypes and to begin creating bonds of friendship. Nochomovitz is an English methodology teacher at Kay College, a teachers' college in Beersheba, and a teachers' adviser for the Education Ministry in the south. She organized 16 English teachers, including Jews, Beduin and Israeli Arabs, whom she knew through her work.

The group met monthly to learn together how to foster peace in the classroom. Sessions included a visit to Neveh Shalom, a settlement where Jews and Arabs live together.

Why English teachers? "English is a neutral language," claims Nochomovitz, a former New Yorker. "English is the language that will take us to peace. If we're going to meet with our neighbors, that's the language we will speak."

"I formed this group because I felt that before getting to know the Jordanians, we should get to know our minorities here. We've found out a lot about each other - fears, anxieties and different teaching conditions. It's been a slow process, but now the group has come together and the members want to continue." The biggest problem, she says, is funding.

Kay College, where the group meets, serves a widely multicultural population, and graduates 200 to 250 teachers yearly.

A methodology seminar for Beduin English teachers was given at Kay, teaching how to enlarge vocabulary through art, humor, songs and stories. The seminar was taught by Maureen Kushner, whom Nochomovitz recruited to lead a session on teaching peace through humor.

Another seminar was given by group member Frank Perlmuter, a teacher at Habesor school near the Egyptian border. Perlmuter introduced the ICONS project of the University of Maryland, which sponsors simulated international conferences via Internet for high-school students in Israel, the US, Canada and Japan.

Students choose from such issues as trade, Middle East peace, and arms control, and research the position of the country assigned to them.

In Israel, all participating schools are in development towns and receive funding from the Jewish Agency.

Perlmuter would like to see the program expanded to include Beduin students, hoping to eventually establish contact between Jordanian and Israeli children - for friendship, not only negotiation. J.G.

Warsaw's Jewish Historical Institute to expand

THE Jewish Historical Institute in central Warsaw is to be reconstructed and expanded on a large plot of land which once held the Jewish town hall, according to Sir Sigmund Sternberg, chairman of the International Council of Christians and Jews.

Sternberg met recently with the institute's director, Dr. Grazyna Pawlak.

He also reported that the Greek government has agreed to remove a number of antisemitic quotations in high-school textbooks on religious history and literature.

But the Jewish community of Greece is disturbed by a recent government decision to include religion on identity cards.

Haim Shapiro

JEWISH WORLD

A REFORM BEIT MIDRASH
The World Union for Progressive Judaism is to hold its 27th annual convention - "Tikun Olam: Can We Repair the World for the 21st Century?" - in Paris on June 29, the union said in a news release.

In the course of the five-day gathering, WUPJ leaders are to announce the establishment of Israel's first Reform Beit Midrash. The study center will be housed at Beit Shmuel, the WUPJ's Jerusalem community center.

Jerusalem Post Staff

JEWISH FESTIVAL IN RUSSIA
Today is the last day of an eight-day festival of Jewish music in St. Petersburg. Among the performances of works by lead-

ing Jewish composers was the world premiere of *Lema'an Yal-deinu* ("For our Children"), written in 1943 by Mikhail Gnesin, and the Russian premiere of Leonard Bernstein's symphony, *Kaddish*, according to a news

release by Tel Aviv University.

Musicians from three countries included representatives from TAU's Rubin Academy of Music. The Jewish composers featured included Bloch, Mahler and Ben-Haim.

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HAIFA Rambam Hospital, Skin Clinic Near Hahof Hashaket	Thursday 22.6.95 Friday 23.6.95	3-6 p.m. 9 a.m.-12 noon
TIBERIAS (entrance fee charged at locations) Hof Gajim Municipal Beach Hamei Tveria Hatze'ira	Friday 23.6.95	9 a.m.-12 noon
JERUSALEM Israel Cancer Assoc. 18 Hillel, Or Gil House	Friday 23.6.95	9 a.m.-12 noon
NAHARIYA Galei Galil Beach	Friday 23.6.95	9 a.m.-12 noon
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BUSINESS & FINANCE

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 1995

Court overturns ILA decision,
kibbutz deal now uncertain

THE High Court of Justice yesterday overturned Israel Lands Administration decision 666 — one of the bases of the kibbutz debt arrangement — on the grounds that two members of the ILA council should not have participated in the decision due to conflicts of interest.

The ruling could have serious repercussions on the debt arrangement, under which the kibbutzim are to contribute about NIS 2 billion through the sale of land.

However, the court expressed no opinion as to the inherent rightness or wrongness of the decision, so the ILA council could theoretically reconvene tomorrow without these two members and reaffirm the same decision.

Should this happen, however, all six petitions to the High Court which were withdrawn in light of yesterday's decision would probably be resubmitted.

Decision 666, approved last

EVELYN GORDON

September, states that kibbutzim and moshavim whose land is repossessed by the ILA and rezoned for non-agricultural use will be given compensation equal to between 27 percent and 29% of the new value of the land — even though, according to their lease agreements with the ILA, they are eligible only for 25% of the old value.

Others who own agricultural land, however, will be given compensation only according to the lease agreements.

Five petitions — by Mehadrin, the Farmers Association and three individuals — charged that this decision was discriminatory, and that the higher rates should be paid in all cases. A sixth, by architect Irit Sror, made the opposite claim — that this decision was a waste of public funds.

However, Sror's petition also charged that the decision should

be null and void because three people who participated in it should have been disqualified due to conflicts of interest. Justices Gavriel Bach, Theodor Orr and Ya'akov Kedmi said this latter claim was so clearly true that they had no need to rule on any of the other arguments.

The three people cited by Sror were Simha Assaf, secretary-general of the Agricultural Center; Arye Reichman, secretary of the United Kibbutz Movement; and Shalom Simhon, secretary-general of the moshav movement.

The justices did not rule on whether Assaf had a conflict of interest, but said the other two did. While it was in the ILA's interest to pay the lowest possible compensation, the kibbutzim and moshavim have an obvious interest in higher compensation.

Neither man even pretended objectivity, the justices noted.

Both were leaders in the public fight for higher compensation for the kibbutzim and moshavim.

"The number of [kibbutz and moshav] representatives [on the ILA council] has increased, so I hope we will be able to pass decisions that are for the benefit of these movements," Simhon said in an interview with *Globe* cited by the court in its verdict.

"It's hard to imagine a more outstanding example of a conflict of interest [than this]," the justices wrote.

The Treasury refused to comment, saying it needed time to study the ruling.

However, Ilan Plato, the prime minister's economic adviser, said he did not foresee any difficulties arising from the court's decision.

"The government has decided to redraft the ILA decision, with minor changes, within a week or two," Plato said.

Jose Rosenfeld contributed to this report.

Treasury: Cut budget if
balance-of-payment deficit
continues increasing

JOSE ROSENFELD

dated the Treasury's original estimates which predicted that civilian imports would rise 5.1 percent this year to 9%.

What will keep import levels high are consumption imports, which are currently peaking.

According to Gal-Yam, private consumption is highly cyclical. The present upward wave has been nourished by the large immigrant population, which has established itself quickly — requiring significant spending for durable goods.

In addition, the generous public sector wage hikes fanned private consumption.

These contributing factors are expected to weaken within a year or two, she said. This year, however, private consumption will rise 6.7%, instead of the previous estimate of 5.2%, and per capita consumption will jump 4.2%

from the original 2.8% rise that was expected.

The relatively anemic export performance since the beginning of the year does not jive with the large imports of raw materials and industrial machinery and equipment.

"Industrialists are increasing their imports, because they are optimistic about growth, and these imports are the harbinger of future exports," she said.

Gal-Yam rejected suggestions of tacking the gaping balance-of-payments deficit by means of higher interest rates and by devaluing the shekel.

At a certain level, high interest rates do not promote saving, and nominal devaluations dissipate and fail to become real, she said.

She warned that before pulling back on the fiscal reins, the government would have to make sure the rising trade gap is not a temporary phenomenon.

Swary's firm buys
into Mario Laznik

PROF. Yitzhak Swary's accounting firm will acquire a three-percent stake in heavily leveraged real estate group Mario Laznik Building, the firm told the stock exchange yesterday.

Swary and his partner Zvi Yuchman have been providing operational and management advice to the company.

According to the announcement, Yuchman is to be appointed managing director of the company, while Laznik will continue as chairman.

In addition to the initial 3% holding, Swary's firm will have an option to acquire a further 7% during the next two years.

Koor sells 50% of Gamda
to Blue Square Co-Op

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

KOOR Industries has sold 50 percent of Gamda Trade, its discount department chain, to Blue Square Co-Op for about NIS 8.5 million.

A Koor spokesman confirmed the companies signed an agreement in principle in which Co-Op will manage the firm.

The sale is in the framework of Koor's plans to get out of the retail field and concentrate its efforts on improving profits in the industrial, tourism and trade fields.

Co-Op plans to operate

Gamda similar to its Super-Center chain.

Koor and Co-Op started negotiations about two months ago after the Shamrock Group bought 22.5% of Koor's shares.

Sources close to the company said the agreement was initiated by Koor president and CEO Benny Gaon, who serves as chairman of Co-Op — which operates 1,150 branches, including Hypershuk and Zil ve-Zil.

Gamda currently operates seven stores and plans to open two more soon.

Court delays Yuli Ofer's trial on tax fraud

EVELYN GORDON

receipts to fraudulently claim tax deductions for themselves.

Ofer claimed the state's decision to indict him is discriminatory, since some of the other violators' cases were settled by administrative fines.

In response, the state noted that 24 cases were settled by fines, while indictments were served in 15 cases besides Ofer's — and Ofer clearly belonged in the latter group, it argued, because of the severity of his offense.

Initially, Justices Gavriel Bach,

Tova Strasberg-Cohen and Zvi Tal appeared unsympathetic to the petition, saying it was hard to claim discrimination when 15 other companies were also indicted.

However, they then concentrated on procedural issues — the fact that Ofer had not exhausted all other possibilities before petitioning the court — and suggested that he withdraw his petition, with the option of resubmitting it if the attorney-general also turns him down.

Since Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair personally recommended that the tax authorities indict Ofer, this seems likely.

Bezek to probe
stock purchase

JUDY SIEGEL

BEZEK's board of directors yesterday set up a committee to look into "all the implications" of the purchase of its stock by British company Cable & Wireless.

Bezek said the body will also approve the content of a "suitable agreement" between the two telecommunications companies.

Bezek chairman Gurion Meltzer and director-general Yitzhak Kail will continue their negotiations with Cable & Wireless, which recently bought 10 percent of Bezek's shares on the stock market.

After the purchase, the government issued a statement that the acquisition was too quick and could interfere with Bezek's privatization plans.

The board, which included its legal and financial experts in the discussion, said that ensuring policy independence — including the choice of strategic partners — was vital.

Treasury demands
Bezek cancel
special pensionsJOSE ROSENFELD
AND JUDY SIEGEL

TREASURY wage director Yossi Kucik demanded yesterday that Bezek cancel the preferential pension terms it granted to 18 senior employees, which have so far cost the company about NIS 5.5 million.

The special terms include the ability to collect pension benefits before the age of 65 and having the pension calculated based on the worker's highest salary paid, instead of his average salary.

Kucik based his decision on a legal opinion by the attorney-general, determining that the special terms are a retirement benefit he did not authorize.

Haim Berenson, the lawyer representing 15 of the 18 senior Bezek employees demanding generous pensions from the government, claimed the Treasury was trying to cancel them because 170 senior Finance Ministry officials are now demanding the same benefits.

Berenson maintained that these conditions were explicitly approved and even "dictated" by the Finance Ministry in 1984.

Treasury spokesman Eli Yosef retorted "there's no link whatsoever between the two and I don't understand to which 170 officials he's referring."

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U.S. dollar (\$50,000)	4.875	4.875	4.875	
German mark (DM 200,000)	3.000	2.875	3.250	
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	1.875	1.875	2.875	
Yen (10 million yen)				

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (20.6.95)				
CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep.
Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	Rate
Currency basket	3.4250	3.4005	—	3.4578
U.S. dollar	2.9433	2.9808	2.89	2.9710
German mark	2.1114	2.1455	2.07	2.1310
French franc	4.7178	4.7339	4.69	4.7679
Japanese yen (100)	0.8020	0.8118	0.89	0.8073
Dutch florin	3.4802	3.5304	3.42	3.5139
Swiss franc	1.8952	1.9183	1.85	1.9045
Spanish peseta	2.5428	2.5839	2.49	2.5701
Swedish krona	4.4072	4.4138	0.40	0.4098
Norwegian krone	0.4788	0.4815	0.46	0.4785
Danish krone	0.5401	0.5489	0.53	0.5458
Finland mark	0.6872	0.6883	0.67	0.6887
Canadian dollar	2.1301	2.1845	2.08	2.1481
Australian dollar	2.1294	2.1838	2.08	2.1558
S. African rand	0.8351	0.8181	0.73	0.8124
Belgian franc (10)	1.2644	1.2644	1.01	1.0381
Austrian schilling (10)	3.0008	3.0494	2.94	3.0518
Italian lira (1000)	1.7880	1.8271	1.78	1.8140
Jordanian dinar	—	—	4.14	4.2228
Egyptian pound	—	—	0.83	0.8210
ECU	3.8988	3.9595	—	3.9378
Irish punt	4.8182	4.8880	4.73	4.8715
Spanish peseta (100)	2.4304	2.4897	2.39	2.4625

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.

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Wholesale Price Index	100.00	+0.30%

New York market indexes

Dow Jones	5,958.12	+1.12
S&P 500	442.85	+0.25
Nasdaq	1,000.00	+0.10
NYSE	1,000.00	+0.10
AMEX	1,000.00	+0.10
NYSE	1,000.00	+0.10
AMEX	1,000.00	+0.10
NYSE	1,000.00	+0.10
AMEX	1,000.00	+0.10

Other stock market indexes

FTSE 100	2,977.2	+1.1
DAX	2,977.2	+1.1
Nikkei	14,665.7	+1.1
Hong Kong	10,000.0	+1.1
Shanghai	10,000.0	+1.1

Israeli stocks in NY

NYSE	1,000.00	+0.10
AMEX	1,000.00	+0.10
NYSE	1,000.00	+0.10
AMEX	1,000.00	+0.10
NYSE	1,000.00	+0.10
AMEX	1,000.00	+0.10

NASDAQ over-the-counter

NYSE	1,000.00	+0.10
AMEX	1,000.00	+0.10
NYSE	1,000.00	+0.10
AMEX	1,000.00	+0.10
NYSE	1,000.00	+0.10
AMEX	1,000.00	+0.10

Dollar crossrates (US)

US dollar	NIS 2.9710	+0.30%
Swiss franc	NIS 4.7679	+0.62%
Mark	NIS 2.1310	+0.58%

Labor rates

Hourly wage	NIS 1.00	+0.10
Monthly wage	NIS 3,000.00	+0.30%
Annual wage	NIS 36,000.00	+0.60%

Foreign financial data courtesy of

CommStock Trading Ltd.	1,000.00	+0.10
CommStock Trading Ltd.	1,000.00	+0.10
CommStock Trading Ltd.	1,000.00	+0.10

Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds

Commodity	1,000.00	+0.10
Commodity	1,000.00	+0.10
Commodity	1,000.00	+0.10

US commodities

Commodity	1,000.00	+0.10
Commodity	1,000.00	+0.10
Commodity	1,000.00	+0.10

London commodities

Commodity	1,000.00	+0.10
Commodity	1,000.00	+0.10
Commodity	1,000.00	+0.10

Spot market metals (US)

Commodity	1,000.00	+0.10
Commodity	1,000.00	+0.10
Commodity	1,000.00	+0.10

New York metal futures

Commodity	1,000.00	+0.10
Commodity	1,000.00	+0.10
Commodity	1,000.00	+0.10

London metal futures

Commodity	1,000.00	+0.10
Commodity	1,000.00	+0.10
Commodity	1,000.00	+0.10

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading

Two-sided trading

PARALLEL LIST

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Property, Building & Agriculture

Mortgage Banks & Finance

Financial Institutions

Insurance

Trade & Services

Investment Companies

Oil Exploration

Oil Exploration

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Israeli stocks in New York boost local market

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

FELICE MARANZ



THE stock market rose yesterday, boosted by gains in Israeli companies traded in New York, particularly the 21 percent increase registered by Lanet Data Communications.

Overseas investors also continued to buy shares in local companies here, traders said.

There was speculation that overseas investment may have driven IDB Holding Corp., which rose 1%; Elbit, up 1.75%; and Maktreshim Chemical Works, which rose 1.25%.

The Two-Sided index went up 0.98% to 191.16, while the Maof index rose 0.84% to 193.12.

Across the exchange as a whole, four shares rose for every one that fell.

The value of shares changing hands was NIS 128.1 million, NIS 6.4m. above Monday's level and roughly NIS 30m. above May's average daily trading.

Shares in Bezek went up 1% after falling 6.25% on Monday. Other gaining top shares included Africa Israel 0.1, which rose 3.75%; and Africa Israel 1, which also went up 3.75%.

Super-Sol increased 2.5% after it announced plans for four new branches before the end of the year. (Bloomberg)

FTSE closes 4.1 points lower

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - Blue chips finished marginally lower with shares lacking any fresh impetus.

The FTSE 100 closed 4.1 points lower at 3,377.2.

FRANKFURT - German shares closed bourse trade lower as falling futures contracts offset various supportive factors to wipe out early session gains.

The 30-share DAX index ended at 2,136.68 points, down 5.07 from Monday's close and almost 20 points below session highs.

In post-bourse trade the index was down 13.77 at 2,140.36.

PARIS - French blue chips ended below the 1,900 level on nervousness ahead of the new government's mini-budget, due to be presented tomorrow.

The CAC-40 index closed down 22.31, or 1.16 percent, at 1,896.12.

ZURICH - Swiss shares ended little changed in quiet trading on moderate volumes.

Shares yielded most of the gains won at the start of the session.

The All-Share SPI closed up 2.61 points at 1,850.68.

TOKYO - Stocks ended moderately weak, with earlier losses eaten up by some last-minute as-

bitrage-linked buying, brokers said.

Share indexes were locked in a battle between arbitrage-linked buying and selling by financial institutions and hedge funds for most of the day.

The 225-share Nikkei average fell 34.36 points to 14,665.70.

HONG KONG - Stocks ended easier as an initial Wall Street-led rise fizzled out on lack of buying support, said brokers.

The blue chip Hang Seng index fell 35.26 points to close at 9,278.69.

SYDNEY - The Australian share market closed slightly weaker after worse than expected May merchandise imports data dragged shares from modest gains after the Dow and the price of gold rose on Monday.

The All Ordinaries Index finished 3.3 points lower at 1970.5.

JOHANNESBURG - South African shares took advantage of improved fundamentals and brighter sentiment on Tuesday to end well up in mostly quiet trade.

The overall index added 49.5 points to 5,518.9, the industrial index added 37.8 points to 6,847.7 and the gold index rose 23.1 points to 1,527.3.

Dow retreats slightly

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks trailed mostly lower yesterday, pulling back from the previous session's highs amid profit-taking.

Despite an improvement late in the day, the Dow Jones average of 30 industrial stocks retreated from the peak reached Monday, falling 3.12 to 4,550.56.

The Nasdaq Stock Market outperformed the rest of Wall Street thanks to continuing strength in technology shares.

National hoopsters face Italy

CHARLES HARRIS

FOR the national basketball team, the least of its worries for the 29th European championships in Greece is that the host team has won three of the last four titles.

What is more alarming is that the team won just one game out of five during the recent exhibition matches — and they looked bad in the process.

The team will have its work cut out for it in what is expected to be the toughest championships to date — as the breakup of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia has created five strong teams (Russia, Lithuania, Slovenia, Croatia and Yugoslavia) in place of two.

Yugoslavia, which won the last two championships in which it played (1989, 1991) returns to the tournament after the partial lifting of UN sanctions that kept the team outside international sports for almost three years.

National team coach Zvi Sherf has brought his top 12 players, led by captain Doron Jamchev. The guard, who has more national team appearances than any member of the current squad with 169, did not play in the final practice game against Sweden due to a sore thumb.

However, he is expected to start today in the opening game against Italy.

Rounding out Israel's group are defending champions Germany, Yugoslavia, Sweden, Lithuania and Greece (1987 winners, the last time they hosted the tournament).

Group B includes Russia, Croatia, Spain, France, Slovenia, Finland and Turkey.

Doron Sheffer, the guard who recently finished his sophomore season at the University of Connecticut, will join Jamchev in the backcourt, while Nadav Henefeld and Brad Leaf will start at the forward positions.

Center Ofer Fleisher is Israel's big man in the middle, a position which is one of the team's major weaknesses, as they come up short on the frontline against most other teams in the championships.

The team was outperformed in all its losses in the exhibition games, and the absence of Tomer Steinhilber — Israel's best big man — does

Israel's schedule

Italy	Today 17:30
Sweden	Tomorrow 22:00
Germany	Saturday 13:30
Greece	Monday 20:00
Yugoslavia	Tuesday 13:30
Lithuania	Wednesday 20:00

All games are scheduled to be broadcast live on Channel 1.

not bode well for an improvement in that area.

The top four teams from Groups A and B will advance to the quarter-finals, with single elimination games determining the semifinals and the championship game.

The top four finishers overall will also gain automatic berths in the basketball tournament at next summer's Olympics in Atlanta.

Israel is coming off a 13th-place finish in the 28th European championships in which host Germany defeated Russia 71-70.

The last time Israel faced Italy in the European championships was in 1993, when the Italians won 92-83. All of Israel's six games in the final pool are scheduled to be broadcast on Channel 1, starting with today's 5:30 pm tip-off.

Wimbledon draw pairs Graf with last year's junior champ

WIMBLEDON (AP) — For the second consecutive year, the fate of the Wimbledon draw has handed Steffi Graf a major first-round test.

The top seed and five-time champion was paired yesterday against 14-year-old Swiss sensation Martina Hingis; last year's Wimbledon junior champion.

Since turning pro last year, Hingis has risen to No. 19 in the world rankings and established herself as one of the most promising players on the tour.

In their only previous meeting, Graf beat Hingis 6-2, 6-3 in the quarter-finals of the Paris Open indoor tournament in February.

Last year, Graf became the first Wimbledon defending champion to lose in the first round when she was ousted by American grass-court specialist Lori McNeil.

McNeil again has a chance to defeat a seeded player in her first

round. She could justifiably be called the favorite against No. 14 Naoko Sawamatsu of Japan.

Another interesting first-round match for the tournament, which begins Monday, pits No. 7 Lindsay Davenport against last year's semifinalist Gigi Fernandez.

In the men's draw, top-seeded Andre Agassi fared slightly better than No. 2 Pete Sampras, the two-time defending champion.

Agassi, the 1992 champion who is coming off a hip injury suffered at the French Open, starts against a qualifier and would face either Richey Reneberg or Patrick McEnroe in the second round.

Agassi's third-round opponent could be American grass-court expert David Wheaton, with 15th-seeded Andrei Medvedev looming in the fourth round.

Sampras faces Germany's Karsten Braasch, ranked No. 119, in the opening round. He could

meet either Guy Forget or Greg Rusedski in the fourth round. Forget, seeded No. 16, lost to Sampras in the Queens Club final on Sunday.

In an intriguing first-round, No. 3 Boris Becker faces Spanish clay-court expert Alberto Berasategui, making his Wimbledon debut. Berasategui is ranked No. 12 but is unseeded.

If the draw goes according to form, the quarter-final matchups would be: Agassi vs. No. 7 Wayne Ferreira, Becker vs. No. 5 Michael Chang, No. 4 Goran Ivanisevic vs. No. 6 Yevgeny Kafelnikov, and Sampras vs. No. 8 Sergi Bruguera.

The projected women's quarter-finals are: Graf vs. Davenport, No. 4 Jana Novotna vs. No. 6 Kimiko Date, defending champion and No. 3 Conchita Martinez vs. No. 8 Gabriela Sabatini, and No. 2 Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario vs. No. 5 Mary Pierce.

Kraznov top sportsman

CHAMPION POLE vaulter Danzy Kraznov has been chosen as 1994's outstanding athlete and will receive a trophy and NIS 5000 as recognition for his merits on Saturday night at the opening of the Israel Athletic Championships at Hadar Yosef stadium.

Kraznov, from Hapoel Givat Ram, holds the national pole vault record at 5.75 meters but his participation in the tournament is still unclear due to injury.

The women's title was awarded to runner Dina Saliman from Hapoel Nazareth who came in second in the 1500m of the Hapoel Games, clocking in at 4:22:52.

Heather Chait

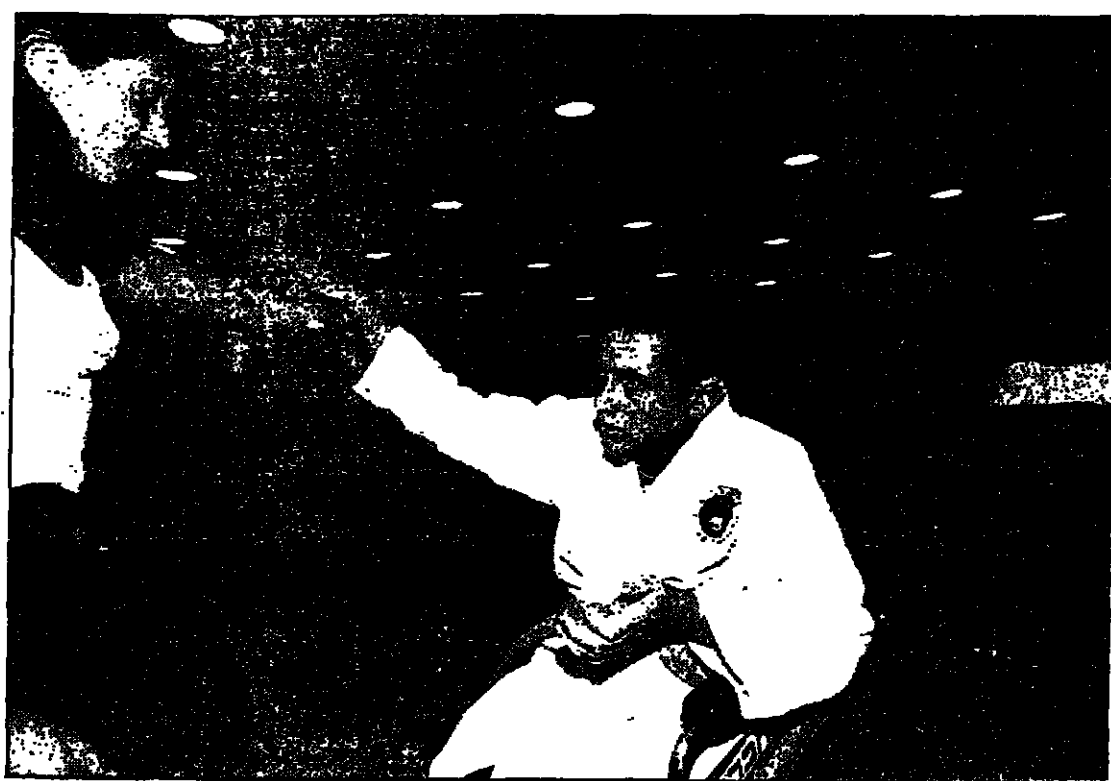
Winters 1st Grizzlies coach

VANCOUVER (AP) — Brian Winters, an assistant with the Atlanta Hawks and once one of the NBA's top shooters, was hired Monday as the first coach of the expansion Vancouver Grizzlies.

The Toronto Raptors recently named Brendan Malone, a former Detroit Pistons assistant, as its first head coach.

Bergkamp to Arsenal

LONDON (Reuters) — Dutch international Dennis Bergkamp became Bruce Rioch's first signing as Arsenal manager yesterday when he joined the Premier League side from Internazionale Milan for £7.5 million.



TOUGH GUY — The martial arts center opening included a demonstration of disabled people defending themselves.

(Bram Hirschfeld)

Martial arts center opens in capital

HEATHER CHAIT

SOCCER at Jerusalem's Teddy Stadium will soon be competing against grunts and snorts from the belly of the stadium.

Underneath the northeast stands, a new martial arts center was dedicated this week.

A joint project of the city of Berlin and the Jerusalem Municipality, the center, open since April, aims to afford an impetus for sports like judo, taekwondo, aikido and kung-fu, with the emphasis on the first two Olympic sports.

To cover the cost of NIS 2 million, Berlin provided NIS 1.7m with the Jerusalem Municipality giving the rest.

The complex boasts state-of-the-art amenities

with a 280-meter hall and bathroom and shower facilities suitable for healthy and disabled sportspeople.

At Monday's dedication ceremony, attended by Senator Wolfgang Nagel from Berlin, a group of severely handicapped youth demonstrated a self-defense class, foiling staged strangulation and knife attacks from schoolchildren volunteers.

Israel's national youth taekwondo team also compelled the crowd with a power-packed display, deflecting attacks and breaking slates with their brute strength.

The center, under the auspices of the municipal sports authority, will be managed by Yossi Lev.

Ripken breaks slump in O's win

BALTIMORE (AP) — Cal Ripken broke out of a 2-for-24 slump with four hits and two RBIs as the Baltimore Orioles snapped a seven-game losing streak Monday night with a 5-4 victory over the New York Yankees.

Ripken had two doubles, a single and a triple and barely missed becoming the first Oriole player to hit for the cycle twice in his career. Ripken, who did it on May 6, 1984, and Brooks Robinson are the lone Baltimore players to hit for the cycle.

Needing a homer in the seventh inning, Ripken lashed a line drive to right-center that hit the wall on one hop for a double.

Right-hander Scott Klingenbeck (2-1) allowed three runs on five hits in six innings for the victory. Doug Jones pitched the ninth for his eighth save.

Mike Stanley and Randy Velarde homered for the Yankees, who won four of their previous six. Yankees right-hander Melido Perez (4-4), was the loser, allowing five runs on 10 hits in eight innings, with a season-high nine strikeouts.

Rangers 6, Tigers 4
Kevin Gross ended a five-start winless streak with his first victory since May 17, and Texas ended host Detroit's four-game winning streak.

Gross (2-6) benefited from the Rangers' three-run rally in the sixth inning and survived home runs by Chad Curtis, Cecil Fielder and Bobby Higginson, which put the Tigers up 4-2 after four innings.

Indians 4, Red Sox 3
Manly Ramirez led off the bottom of the 10th inning with a home run.

It marked the 12th time this season the Indians won a game in their last at-bat. Winners of 18 of 22 games, they improved baseball's best record to 35-13, including 20-6 at Jacobs Field.

Albert Belle and Jim Thome also homered for Cleveland, which is 5-0 in extra innings.

Ramirez hit a 3-2 pitch from Ken Ryan into the stands in right-center for his 14th homer. Ryan (0-3) struck out five in the previous two innings.

Boston, which has lost six of eight games and is 1-4 against Cleveland this year, put runners at first and third with no outs in the top of the 10th. But two strikeouts and a fly ball ended the threat.

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Braves 10, Reds 0
John Smoltz pitched a five-hitter and Fred McGriff homered twice as the Atlanta Braves won their sixth straight.

Smoltz (6-3), beating the Reds for the first time in two years, retired the first 12 batters — only one got the ball out of the infield — before Reggie Sanders' broken-bat single up the middle in the fifth.

Smoltz allowed three more singles and a ninth-inning double, struck out seven and didn't walk anyone in his

second complete game and first shut-out of the season.

Phillies 6, Mets 3
Andy Van Slyke hit a two-run homer in his debut for visiting Philadelphia.

Acquired Sunday from the Baltimore Orioles, Van Slyke singled in his first at-bat and homered off the scoreboard in right-center in the third inning. The five-time Gold Glove winner also made a nice shoestring catch in center field.

Charlie Hayes broke a 2-2 tie in the sixth with an RBI single to left against Dave Mlicki (4-3), extending his hitting streak to nine games. One batter later, Tim Lincecum scored from second on a throwing error.

The Phillies added two more runs in the eighth on an RBI groundout by Tom Marsh and a 400-foot RBI double by pitcher Norm Charlton in his first at-bat of the year.

Paul Quantrill (6-2), allowed six hits and one walk in 6 1/3 innings with five strikeouts. Heathcliff Slocumb pitched the ninth inning for his 17th save.

Ryan Thompson homered for the Mets.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division			
Team	W	L	Pct.
Boston	20	10	.667
Detroit	20	10	.667
Toronto	20	10	.667
Baltimore	20	10	.667
New York	20	10	.667

Central Division			
Team	W	L	Pct.
Cleveland	20	10	.667
Kansas City	20	10	.667
Minnesota	20	10	.667
Chicago	20	10	.667
St. Louis	20	10	.667

West Division			
Team	W	L	Pct.
California	20	10	.667
Oakland	20	10	.667
Seattle	20	10	.667

MONDAY'S AL RESULTS:
Texas 6, Detroit 4
Baltimore 5, New York 4
Cleveland 4, Boston 3 (10)
Chicago 6, Seattle 5
Minnesota 5, Oakland 5 (10)
Kansas City 5, California 5

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Liba'i dismisses Bnei Brak city council

ACTING Interior Minister David Liba'i yesterday dismissed the Bnei Brak municipal council, after endorsing the recommendations of a committee of inquiry into the irregularities in the municipality's management.

Liba'i announced he would appoint a committee of experts (va'ada kru'a) to run the city, "before the week is out."

He added that, if officials had been found to have violated the law, the police would be asked to investigate.

The inquiry committee, headed by advocate Ya'acov Ne'eman, was set up by former interior minister Uzi Baram in the wake of the city's accumulated deficit more than NIS 100 million, charges of mismanagement and corruption, and failure to provide

BATSHEVA TSUR and Itim

proper services. "Nepotism is rampant, with officials finding jobs for relatives and friends," the report says, noting that the number of city workers far exceeds the norm.

"Many of the municipal employees simply fail to appear at work," it continues. It also cited complicated maneuvers and intrigues to maintain the delicate balance between the city's various religious factions.

The report discloses that only 57% of the residents paid municipal taxes, with exemptions handed out on the basis of favoritism. Loans had been taken out illegally to cover the city's deficit, which grew annually by some

NIS 20m.-NIS 40m.

There was also strong criticism of Mayor Moshe Irenstein's running of the council, with the report slamming the appointment of no less than 12 deputy mayors.

"Had the interior minister [at the time, Aryeh Deri] heeded the state comptroller's recommendations in her 1991 report... the citizens of Bnei Brak could have been spared a great deal of suffering," the report adds.

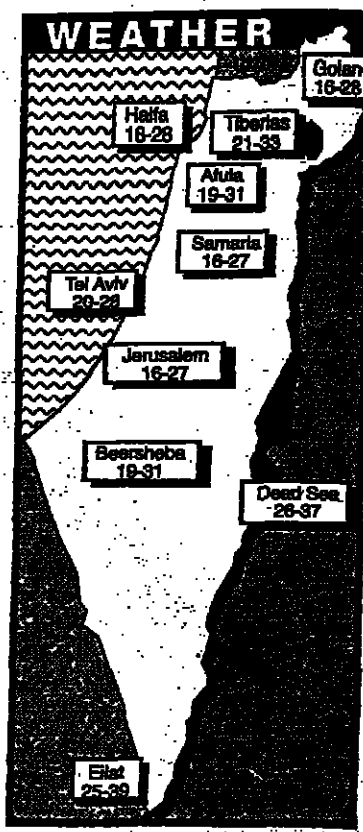
"This is a sad day for the State of Israel," Ne'eman said.

A spokesman for Irenstein told Israel Radio that Bnei Brak had faced severe economic constraints and that City Hall was trying to rectify the problems by introducing efficiency measures.

"It is too bad they did not give us enough time," he said.



President Ezer Weizman leaves after paying condolences at the Ramat Aviv home of the Rosner family, whose son, Sgt. Hillel Rosner, was killed Sunday in Lebanon when an IDF patrol was ambushed. Earlier, the president joined the mourners in the Jezreel Valley village of Zarzir, home of Warrant Officers Hisham Rakhal Hayeb and Ahni Mohammed Hayeb, who also fell in the incident. The president praised the role of the Beduin trackers and other Beduin citizens serving in the IDF, and promised to take care of the problems of the Beduin sector raised during the visit. (Text: Batsheva Tsur, Photo: Alon Ron/Israel Sun)



Forecast: Slightly cooler, especially in the hills.

Officer guilty of death by negligence

A PARATROOP officer was convicted yesterday by the Jaffa Military Court of causing the death by negligence of a private who was crushed between two patrol vehicles in south Lebanon during an attempt to free one of them.

The driver of the vehicle attempting the maneuver was cleared of this charge, and only found guilty of negligence.

According to the indictment, in February 1994, Lt. Ya'acov Algrabli ordered that an attempt be made to free the vehicle, which had gotten stuck in bad weather along the border fence in south Lebanon, despite the fact that there were no proper

vehicles to carry this out.

Pvt. Zahi Shilton was driving the vehicle which was trying to free the other one facing it, despite not being authorized to carry out such tasks, according to the indictment. Algrabli ordered him to proceed despite the fact that he saw that Pvt. Eran Berg was between the two vehicles. Shilton accidentally shifted into drive instead of reverse, crushing Berg between them.

The military prosecutor is expected to seek a demotion in rank for Algrabli and a punishment that will likely be carried out doing public service.

(Itim)

Shahak: I told Saguy to resign

LIAT COLLINS

CHIEF of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak said yesterday that before he assumed his new position he had told OC Intelligence Maj.-Gen. Uri Saguy he would have to resign.

According to Shahak, when he took up the chief of staff post he named a successor to Saguy. "It's true he wanted to stay in the post but I think that after four years as head of Intelligence and 12 years as a general it is permissible to

replace him," Shahak told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday.

Shahak said the reason Saguy wanted to stay in the position "had nothing to do with his actual function but to other matters," adding that Saguy had been hoping to be named to the head of a government agency.

Shahak was responding to Sa-

guy's well publicized resignation this week. Saguy had been passed over for the chief of staff position and was apparently also upset he was not chosen to participate in the military team negotiating with the Syrians. Saguy has claimed that he first heard about his replacement from media reports.

Shahak said a new chief of staff has the right to create a general command he can work with.

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH	
	C	F	C
Amsterdam	13	55	72
Berlin	14	57	73
Buenos Aires	21	70	82
Chicago	17	63	81
Copenhagen	14	57	71
Helsinki	14	57	71
London	13	55	72
Los Angeles	24	75	85
Madrid	14	57	71
Moscow	14	57	71
New York	14	57	71
Paris	14	57	71
Rome	14	57	71
Stockholm	14	57	71
Sydney	24	75	85
Tokyo	24	75	85
Vienna	14	57	71

Trial date set for hassid charged with molestation

TOM TUGEND
LOS ANGELES

A TRIAL date of August 8 has been set for Yehudah Friedlander, 44, an assistant to a Boro Park rabbi charged with sexually molesting a 15-year-old girl during a flight from Australia to Los Angeles.

Friedlander is an assistant to Rabbi Israel Grunwald, leader of a small faction of Pupa Hassidim in Brooklyn. He appeared Monday before US Magistrate Judge Rosalyn Chapman and pleaded not guilty to a single count of sexual abuse of a minor.

Grunwald and his assistant were arrested together, but while the investigation of the rabbi is continuing, no decision has been reached on whether to prosecute him, said Assistant US District Attorney Debra

Yang. Friedlander is free on a \$200,000 bond but has been placed under house arrest and electronic surveillance at his Boro Park home.

The charges against the two, detailed in a nine-page FBI affidavit, allege that during the May 31 flight, Grunwald and Friedlander fondled and groped a 15-year-old Australian girl across an empty seat.

If convicted, Friedlander, the father of five children, could face a sentence of up to 15 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Grunwald, who would face the less serious charge of sexually touching a minor, is free on \$10,000 bail.

Winning cards and numbers

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the eight of spades, ace of hearts, ace of diamonds, and seven of clubs.

In the weekly Lotto drawing, the winning numbers were 2, 4, 16, 27, 43, 45 and the additional number was 26.

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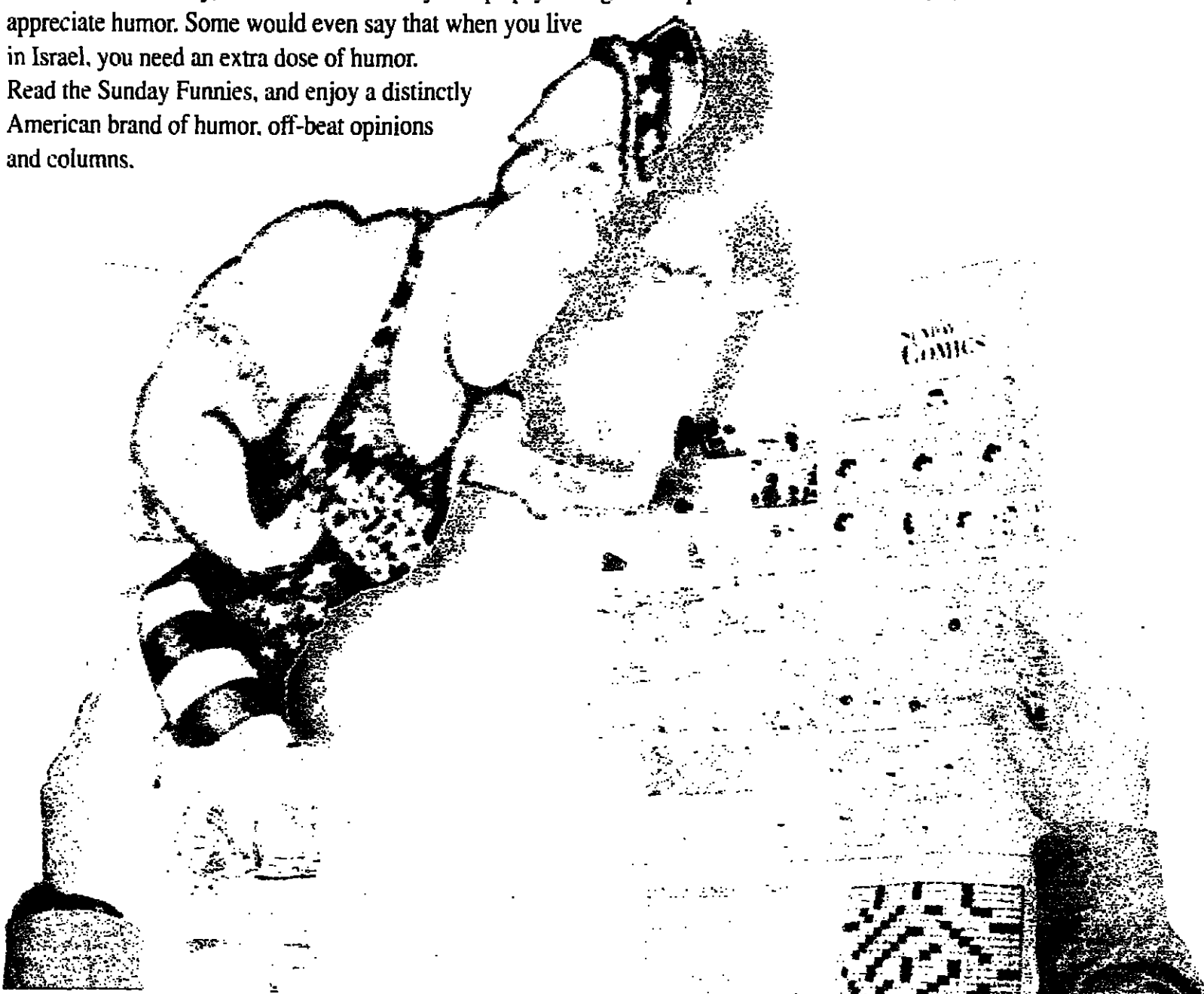
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